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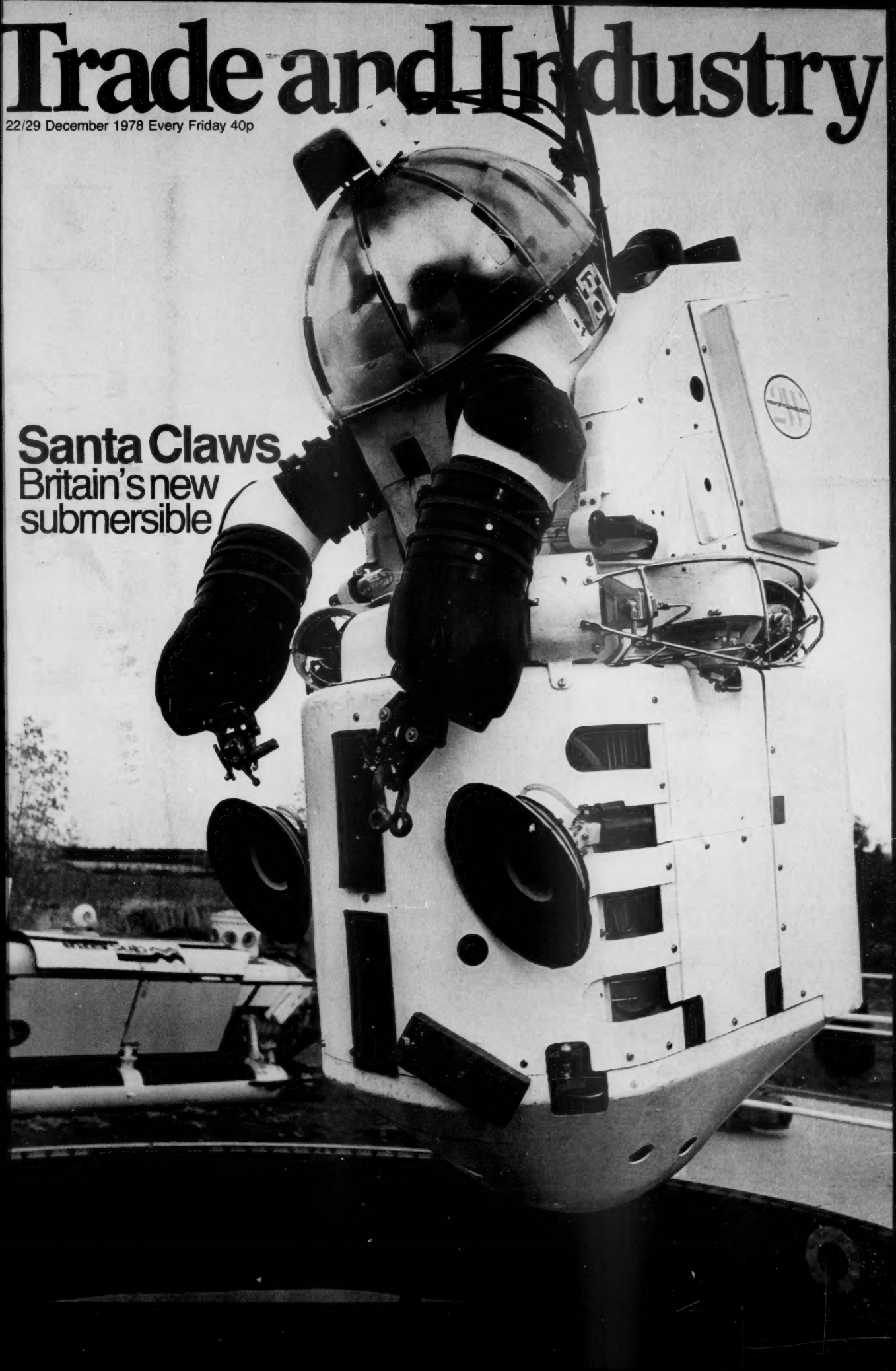
22/29 December 1978 Every Friday 40p



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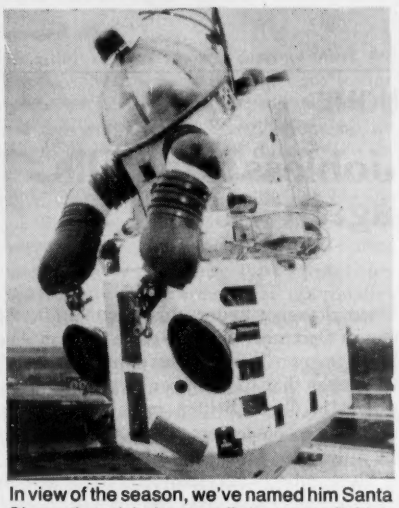
Trade and Industry

22/29 December 1978

News from the Departments of Industry·Trade·Prices & Consumer Protection



In view of the season, we've named him Santa Claws, though he's normally known as Spider. He does marvels with his hydraulically powered claws 600 m below surface (see page 620).

Trade and Industry

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Trade and Industry this week

EUROPE

Trade with Eire now subject to new rules

Imports and exports between the UK and the Irish Republic are now subject to the same rules that apply to trade with other countries, the Central Bank of Ireland said on Monday. This is a result of the Irish decision to join the European monetary system, which gets underway on 1 January (see page 628).

As from Monday (18 December), Irish importers must produce documentary evidence to an authorised dealer before payment can be made. Irish cheques must, likewise, be stamped 'eligible for credit to an external account' by an authorised dealer before being sent to the UK.

All persons and companies resident in the UK are designated 'non-residents' for exchange control purposes. All payments made by these 'non-residents' will now require permission from an authorised dealer.

Direct investment in UK companies by Irish residents, personal capital movement to the UK, and the purchase of personal property are not restricted but, for supervisory purposes, require prior permission.

The Irish finance minister, George Colley, said on 15 December that normal day-to-day payments in respect of trade and current transactions, and travel, would be largely unaffected.

The UK authorities, for their part, will not be extending exchange controls to the Republic of Ireland in the immediate future, but will be keeping the situation under continuous review. If necessary, they would be able to impose exchange controls at very short notice.

The Central Bank of Ireland has made it clear that for the time being it will continue to buy and sell Irish pounds for sterling at one for one.

OVERSEAS

Oil prices to rise

Crude oil sold by members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) is to cost more next year. The organisation made the announcement on Monday after a meeting in Abu Dhabi. The United States dollar price of bench mark crude oil is to go up in four stages, starting with a 5 per cent rise on 1 January.

Subsequent rises

After the initial January rises, the price will go up by 3.8 per cent on 1 April, another 2.3 per cent on 1 July, and 2.7 per cent on 1 October. This will bring the dollar price of Arabian light crude up from its present $12.70 a barrel to $14.54 a barrel by the fourth quarter of 1979, a total increase of 14.5 per cent.

Opec says the rise is 'partial compensation' for the loss its individual members have experienced in purchasing power because of the decline of the dollar and worsened terms of trade.

HOME

Jobless total falls again

Unemployment figures this month show the largest December decrease since the war. The Department of Employment announced on 19 December that the number of people unemployed in Great Britain in mid-December, excluding school leavers, was 1 263 370, showing a decrease since November of 14 492.

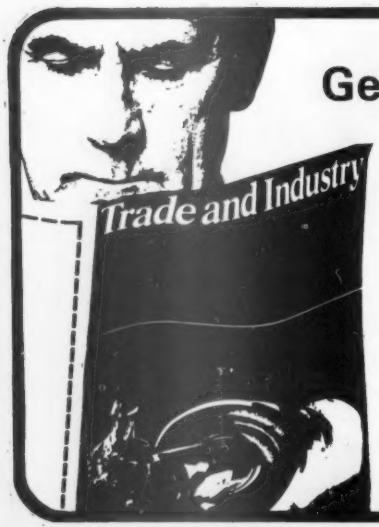
The number of unemployed in Great Britain on 7 December was 1 303 198 – 5.6 per cent of employees. This total includes 39 828 school leavers under 18 not yet employed.

The seasonally adjusted series show that unemployed in Great Britain, excluding school leavers, numbered 1 262 500 (5.4 per cent of all employees), a decrease of 19 000 since 9 November. For the last three months there has been a decrease on average of 18 100.

Fewer fatalities at work

A steady fall in the number of fatal accidents at work, from 874 in 1973 to 621 in 1977, is shown in the annual report of the Health and Safety Commission and Executive, published on 19 December (HMSO, price £1.75).

The report also shows that in 1977 the



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number of notified accidents in construction and coal mining, two of the industries with the highest accident rates, fell slightly. But the number in manufacturing industry increased and the overall number of workplace accidents (about 329 000) was higher than in 1976 (about 327 000).

About 16 million working days were again lost in 1977 through accidents and ill-health compared with 10 million working days lost through industrial disputes.

Revised plan

The commission's revised plan of work for 1978-83, published as an appendix to the report, consists of nearly 200 projects, ranging from the preparation of regulations on all aspects of the transport of dangerous substances to research into developing instruments and techniques for monitoring vibration as well as noise in the workplace; and from the provision of a centralised system for testing and certifying escape-type breathing apparatus for use in mines to an examination of the use of epidemiological surveys in occupational health services.

The plan, approved by the Secretary of State for Employment, is a rolling forward of the 1976-81 plan published in the commission's first report. The new plan also covers for the first time EEC draft directives on which the Health and Safety Executive are involved in discussions in Brussels, and extra-mural research in occupational medicine (neither of which was mentioned in the 1976-81 plan).

Government replies on oil pollution report

Contingency arrangements for dealing with oil spills at sea have been generally successful on the limited number of occasions when they have been activated, says the government in its reply to the report of the parliamentary Select Committee on Science and Technology on these arrangements and the *Eleni V* operation. The reply was published on Thursday in a white paper (Cmnd 7429, HMSO, 40p).

Government already had a review of oil-spill contingency arrangements in hand when the *Eleni V* collided with the *Roseline* on 6 May, says the reply. Rear Admiral Stacey was appointed on 20 November as first director of a marine pollution control unit set up by the Department of Trade. Work on proposals for an increase in the existing capability for dealing with pollution at sea is nearing completion and the results are to be announced shortly. This work is examining operational command and control structures in greater detail, and reviewing salvage arrangements and liability and compensation matters.

Minimising risk

At every stage, the government says, the objective underlying the measures taken, which were supported by a wide range of informed opinion, was to minimise the risk of further pollution from the *Elini V*. Looking to the future in its reply to the committee's report, the government recognises that no amount of preparation can guard against large-scale coastal pollution in the event of disasters of the magnitude of the *Amoco Cadiz*, when some 230 000 tonnes of oil were spilled into the sea.

While it is unrealistic to expect quick or tidy solutions to tanker accidents, the government says it remains determined to do what is reasonable and practical to strengthen the existing contingency arrangements for dealing with oil spills at sea.

More time for credit card report

More time has been given the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to report on the supply of credit card franchise services in the UK.

Following representations, the commission said its report could not be completed by 23 December.

Roy Hattersley, prices secretary, has given a direction which allows the commission an extended period to 23 June 1979 for reporting on the reference.

Consultants to advise on microelectronics

PA International has been appointed by the Department of Industry to help plan a programme to promote industrial awareness of the application of microprocessor and microelectronics technology. This was announced by the department on Wednesday.

The overall objective is to secure full understanding among decision-makers in industry and the trade unions of the pace of the technology and the breadth of its applications in product design and in production methods.

Advice on programme

PA International will advise the department on next year's programme of conferences and seminars and on their future development. It will also provide a regional industrial breakdown of the prospective audience, and will advise the department on the demonstration of products that will be needed.

As part of the general awareness programme, the Department of Industry intends to use Stanford Research Institute for California, formerly SRI International, for presentation to key audiences, including senior industrialists and trade union leaders.

Heat recovery exhibition opens

Minister of State at the Scottish Officer Gregor MacKenzie opened a heat recovery exhibition at East Kilbride on Monday.

The exhibition is organised by the South of Scotland Electricity Board and is part of a combined effort by government and the electricity supply industry to promote energy conservation in industry. It is being held in the SSEB laboratories at Hawbank Road.

Motherwell gets consumer advice centre

A consumer advice centre opened its doors in Motherwell on Monday. Robert Maclennan, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection, formally declared the centre ready for business.

Who's who on public boards

Chairmen and members of public boards of a commercial character as at 1 December are given in a white paper (Cmnd 7417), published on Wednesday.

The white paper includes information on salaries and the dates of first appointments, current appointments and expiry of appointments. It lists members holding more than one appointment. Lists of members of public boards have been published periodically since 1950.

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Home news

GEC and Hitachi in joint tv venture

General Electric Company and Hitachi of Japan are to undertake a joint venture in the UK for manufacturing colour and monochrome television receivers and music centres.

Called GEC-Hitachi Television, the joint venture will embrace GEC's television factory at Hirwaun in south Wales and two smaller associated units. Hitachi will acquire a half share in these facilities and will license GEC-Hitachi Television to have full access to Hitachi's research, development and production technology.

The aim is substantially increased sales and exports, giving greater security of employment in the presently underloaded factories.

Welcoming the announcement on 13 December, Minister of State for Industry, Alan Williams, said he was particularly pleased that his policy of encouraging co-operative ventures between Japanese and British companies was being followed.

He pointed out that Japanese industry had been mystified last year at the reaction then to Hitachi. 'When I was in Japan earlier this year, I told Hitachi that the government would be strongly behind all investment in industry from overseas countries which was in the national interest. This is a very good project. It is strongly in the national interest,' he said.

Mr Williams welcomed the project because it would save a large number of jobs which were seriously threatened in an area of high unemployment; it would enable Japanese technology to be applied to British industry and it would increase efficiency and exports and save on imports. Yet another major company had chosen the UK as a base for its manufacture for the whole of western Europe, Mr Williams said.

GEC already obtains over half of its non-tube components and materials from within the UK and the new joint venture will make the maximum use of UK tubes, components and materials, subject to commercial considerations.

There will be extra investment to improve the quality of the components; this will add to the capability of the British component industry and help improve the quality and reliability of British-made consumer electronics.

Mr Williams added that the joint venture would be a great encouragement to Japanese and other foreign investors. Over and over again, foreign investors had shown that small- and medium-sized, well-managed enterprises in the UK could operate well, could be highly efficient and have high productivity resulting in better profitability than anywhere else in Europe.

Action on discretionary powers

Discretionary powers in the private sector as a measure to counter inflation where settlements breach the government's pay policy will no longer be used by the government. This information was given to the house of commons by Prime Minister James Callaghan on 14 December.

Mr Callaghan said that firms that had been told that discretionary action would be taken against them due to a breach of the pay guidelines would be informed that such action would no longer be taken on that ground. The government would give further details about these actions in due course.

The Prime Minister said he had accepted that the vote on the previous night had reflected a genuine anxiety about the sanctions element of the government's policy. Mr Callaghan pointed out that he had said in the commons on the previous day that the government would review its policy in the light of the votes that had been taken, and a preliminary discussion had taken place that morning. The government had interpreted the votes as meaning that it should no longer use such discretionary powers.

Post Office on target

Stable prices and increased business enabled the Post Office to reach financial targets set by the government in the six months to 29 September.

Profit for the six months, with figures for the corresponding six months in 1977 in parentheses, was: corporation (before dividend and tax) £170.2 million (£159.7 million); telecommunications £144.7 million (£153.5 million); posts, £24.2 million (£4.8 million); Girobank and remittance services (before dividend and tax) £1.3 million (£1.4 million).

Telephone rentals and call charges have not increased for more than three years and postal charges, which have been frozen for 18 months, will not be increased at least until the end of the current financial year.

Telephone traffic has continued to increase and the demand for new telephones has been buoyant. An increase of £133 million in telecommunications' income reflects extra business of about 10 per cent, while the effects of inflation on costs were offset by higher productivity. Prospects for the future are of a continuing strong rate of growth and further productivity gains.

Girobank income was up, reflecting increased revenue from invested funds and fees, offsetting increased counter costs.

In the first six months of 1978-79, the corporation's capital expenditure was about £46 million.

British Shipbuilders' plan: Varley gives assurances

Supporting the shipbuilding industry remains a government commitment, Secretary of State for Industry Eric Varley said on 13 December. With industry minister Gerald Kaufman, he was discussing British Shipbuilders' first corporate plan with representatives of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions (CSEU) and British Shipbuilders.

Mr Varley pointed out that when the government received the plan at the end of the year, it would consider it carefully and before coming to any decisions would consult fully with all concerned. The government would take into account the points made by the CSEU on the future of the industry.

Mr Varley said that it was the government's policy to maximise employment as far as the market situation would permit. Through the intervention fund it had secured orders which had provided work for many thousands. But the government had never concealed the fact that some contraction was inevitable in view of the unprecedented worldwide shipbuilding recession. For that reason it had introduced the shipbuilding redundancy payments scheme.

NEB invests in rubber

The National Enterprise Board is supporting a new venture in County Durham. It has subscribed £160,000 in ordinary and preference shares and will hold 49 per cent of the ordinary share capital of the Duo Rubber and Engineering Company of Wolverhampton.

Duo, which makes a range of rubber moulded industrial products and service items for the tyre industry at Wolverhampton, has formed a subsidiary to set up production facilities at Newton Aycliffe.

NEB funds invested in Duo will help to finance this venture in the north east of England and Department of Industry financial assistance is also committed to the undertaking. Between 50 and 60 new jobs will be created, many in skilled trades.

KME: any solution should aim to save jobs in long term – Williams

Kirkby Manufacturing and Engineering Company (KME) is still losing £1 million a year and it must therefore be accepted that there is something fundamentally wrong in the way in which it operates. This was the point Minister of State at the Department of Industry Alan Williams made to the commons during a debate on the co-operative on 12 December.

Under the industry act, there was a statutory obligation on the government to consider all meaningful applications that came forward. Mr Williams said that the government would fulfil its obligations and would consider any application from KME on its merits. But the aim should be to save the maximum number of jobs in the long term, and that was what any project would be judged by.

Mr Williams explained that he had visited the co-operative on 12 December. A 'frank, robust and valuable meeting' had taken place and he had been left in no doubt about the fears and worries of the workers. He understood the genuineness and depth of these feelings.

Misconceptions

Mr Williams said that he wished to deal with various misconceptions that had arisen throughout the life of the co-operative. The co-operative had been set up with £3.9 million by the present Secretary of State for Energy. This initial finance was thought to have been the appropriate sum needed to make KME viable and assistance had been given on a once-for-all basis. There had been no attempt to start the co-operative off under-funded.

In 1976, the Department of Employment had given the co-operative £680,000 of temporary employment subsidy. In April 1977, KME had then been given further assistance of £860,000. The once-for-all principle had been broken because the department was conscious of the evidence that had been given to the public accounts committee, which suggested that the initial assistance had not been properly assessed. The department had also accepted that there had been an unduly sustained and deep recession in the central heating sector of industry.

This third tranche of government money took the total assistance given up to virtually £5½ million. The directors, Mr Williams continued, had given a categoric assurance that they would not again come back for money. Yet, in the September and October 1977 they had asked for further finance.

Mr Williams said KME's directors had said on several occasions that while they would prefer the company to remain a co-operative, that was not more important to them than saving jobs. They had also said that if in the course of trying to save jobs, the position of the directors became an obstacle, they would gladly stand aside. They had told the government on numerous occasions that, while the form of the co-operative was desirable, it was not imperative.

PA Management Consultants' report

Other than various attempts to interest the National Enterprise Board (NEB), which on every occasion had said that it did not want to get involved in the co-operative, the most notable attempt to put forward a proposition was the PA Management Consultants' report, Mr Williams continued.

The report advocated assistance of £2.9 million from the government but this had been turned down by the Industrial Development Advisory Board. Even if the co-operative had been given the £2.9 million, Mr Williams pointed out, it would only have made a small surplus, if any at all. It would have needed only a slight loss of performance in the market or in production for the surplus to disappear. That slight surplus depended on optimistic assessments of the market for radiators which the department had been unable to confirm. It had also depended on a highly optimistic assumption of the co-operative's market share. PA Management Consultants had admitted that even if the surplus were earned, it would not be adequate to provide for future capital equipment and product development and that it would not have made such a recommendation to a private client.

Private company's interest

Mr Williams explained that on Thursday 7 September 1978 the two directors had come to see him at short notice. They had said that they must be in a position to tell their bank at a meeting on the following Monday what their financial position was likely to be. They had had no firm project to put before the government at that time. Mr Williams said that it was on this occasion that he had drawn to the directors' attention an option, which had been put to the department some time ago. This had come from a private company interested in obtaining extra capacity and in a position to employ 250 to 300 of the KME workforce. The company was only interested in taking KME out of a receivership situation and intended to put in its own directors. A third condition was that the company should never be publicly named.

Possible collapse

Faced with the possible imminent collapse of the co-operative, Mr Williams explained, the suggestion of a receivership had to be considered, although this had never been a solution preferred by the department. Mr Spriggs, as a trade unionist had considered that it was an offer that could not be refused. The alternative was to lose all 700 jobs. Mr Williams explained that he had then contacted other ministerial colleagues to ask if there were any suitable vacancies that they might wish to draw to the attention of the two directors should they lose their jobs with KME. The option put forward by the unnamed company had fallen through because it was unwilling to agree to a request for negotiations from the KME directors.

KME had then suggested that a working party should be formed to find a solution to its problem. Because the potential options were ill formed and because of the difficulty of finding jobs for 700 people in Kirkby, Mr Williams said, he had agreed to a full-time working party.

The working party

Terms of reference for the working party had been agreed with the KME, Mr Williams continued. One member was nominated by each side. A representative of PA Management Consultants had been nominated by KME and, Mr Williams said, he had nominated a member of his department. The name of Professor Hague had been put forward by him for the independent chairman of the working party and had been accepted, after consultations, by KME. The working party had been the idea of the co-operative, Mr Williams emphasised, and it had agreed to abide by its decision. Mr Williams had spelt out to the working party that they were absolutely free men in the way they behaved and in the recommendations that they made. Mr Williams added that he had even refused to see the chairman on his own and had insisted on seeing the whole working party together in the interests of impartiality.

Report

It had been agreed that the working party's report would be submitted on 31 October. The department was at this time paying the losses of the company and continued to do so when the submission of the report was extended by a fortnight. The working party had unanimously recommended that Worcester Engineering Ltd's proposal for a takeover best met its objective of maintaining the maximum number of jobs at KME, consistent with the government guidelines on financial assistance. KME had then held a works' meeting which had accepted the recommendation.

Mr Williams said that from the first moment, the directors had indicated that they intended to use the time of the negotiation with Worcester to campaign for an NEB solution instead of the recommendations of the working party. Mr Williams said that he had appealed to them not to say anything that might prejudice the negotiations since they offered KME its only opportunity of saving 460 jobs in the long term. That opportunity had now collapsed.

The minister added that he had been asked by KME to reconvene the working party to look again at an NEB solution. However, the chairman had said that he felt there was no point in this since, in his view, whoever took over KME needed to be fully committed and the NEB was not.

Pub swap plan agreed

More competition for brewers and more choice for consumers are likely in the future.

After discussions with prices secretary Roy Hattersley and food minister John Silkin on 11 December, national brewers agreed to exchange around 1000 premises. They will reduce their ownership of public houses so that no national brewer will own more than 50 per cent in any major local government area and will go on investigating the practicability of exchanging draught ales. The plan will take several years to complete.

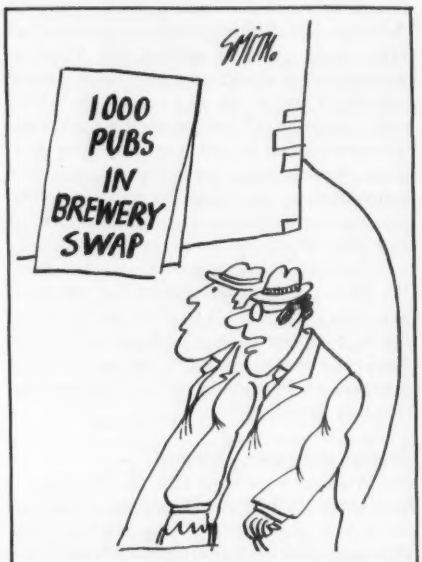
Announcing this in reply to a parliamentary question, Mr Hattersley said that he and Mr Silkin welcomed these steps as the response to earlier discussions with the Brewers' Society. Officials from the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food would be following up the progress made, particularly on the exchange of draught ales between brewers, which, if successful, would result in greater choice within all public houses stocking 'foreign' draught beer. Some brewers were already making arrangements to stock beer in this way, and Mr Silkin and he had pressed on the Brewers' Society the need for other of its members to do the same.

Consultations on the exchanges with customers, licensees and brewers' employees are to start soon.

Mr Hattersley said, 'We believe that the steps that have been undertaken will both increase competition between public houses, and improve consumer choice within public houses. We therefore welcome the steps taken by the brewing industry to improve its structure and competitiveness.'

The Brewers' Society explained that when the swap plan was completed, no national brewer would be selling more than about one-third of the beer in any area with a population of 100 000 or more. Smaller brewers would not be affected.

A Brewers' Society spokesman said that the details of the exchanges had not yet been drawn up. This was an agreement on principles. Before formal proposals were made, there would be full consultation with licensees and trades unions. It would also be important for customers' attitudes to be taken into account. There would, in fact, be 'no need for any one company to swap more than a small number of houses in any one area,' the society said.



'Great. We can sit tight and the pubs will crawl to *us*.'

Consumer credit licence appeals

Star Investigations Ltd. An application for a licence to carry on certain ancillary credit business by Star Investigations Ltd which also traded as Legal and Bankruptcy Services (now called, and trading only as, Star Credit Services Ltd) was refused by the Director General of Fair Trading in a determination dated 9 June 1978. An appeal by the company was, with the director general's consent, allowed by the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection on 7 December.

Charles Roy Bruder. An application for a licence to carry on certain ancillary credit business by Charles Roy Bruder was refused by the Director General of Fair Trading in a determination dated 20 June 1978. An appeal by Mr Bruder was, with the director general's consent, allowed by the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection on 24 November.

Particulars of these applications and appeals may be found in the consumer credit public register maintained by the Director General of Fair Trading which may be inspected between 10.00 and 15.30 hours Monday to Friday (except public holidays) at the Office of Fair Trading, 53 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1SP, tel. 01-242 2858 ext. 391. A fee of 10p is charged.

Aviation security costs more

Cost of aviation security is going up. From 1 April, the rate of the security levy will be increased to 85p per arriving passenger. In addition, the weight exemption below which the levy is not applied will be increased to 10 000 kg – exempting, in particular, helicopters servicing North Sea oil rigs.

This was announced on 14 December by Stanley Clinton Davis, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Companies, Aviation and Shipping. He said that following consultation with representatives of the air transport industry he had laid before parliament under the Civil Aviation Act 1978, section 2(9), draft regulations amending the Aviation Security Fund Regulations 1978 (SI 769 1978) for approval by resolution of each house of parliament. The effect of these regulations would be to increase the rate of the levy from 80p to 85p from 1 April 1979.

He had also taken account of representations made to him about the effect of the levy on small aircraft, in particular helicopters servicing the North Sea oil rigs, and had accordingly proposed that the levy would not be made with reference to persons carried on an aircraft of which the maximum total weight authorised did not exceed 10 000 kg. Under the present arrangements only those carried on aircraft not exceeding 5000 kg were exempted.

The Civil Aviation Act 1978 provided for transferring the financing of aviation security expenditure from the taxpayer to the industry by making a levy on the 28 larger airports in the UK.

The new levy of 85p is well within the indication given by Mr Clinton Davis on 26 June this year, when he said in the house of commons that the levy for 1979-80 would not exceed 90p per arriving passenger.

The forecast out-turn of expenditure from the aviation security fund in the current year is £19,085,000, which is £275,000 higher than estimated when the levy rate for the current year was decided. The estimated expenditure for next year is £24,106,000. It is estimated that the fund will show a surplus of £1,115,000 in the current year due to a higher growth in traffic than was originally predicted. This surplus has been taken into account in arriving at the levy rate of 85p for next year.

Search-and-rescue helicopters in Shetlands

British Airways' Helicopters will provide a long-range search-and-rescue helicopter facility at Sumburgh in the Shetlands from 1 January.

In reply to a parliamentary question about improving search-and-rescue facilities around the Shetlands, John Smith, Secretary of State for Trade, said on 15 December that a contract had been placed with British Airways Helicopters Ltd to provide a long-range helicopter facility based at Sumburgh specifically for marine search-and-rescue purposes. The facility will provide a much-improved capability to respond quickly to emergency calls in sea areas to the north and east of the Shetlands.

The facility will be based on Sikorsky S61N long-range helicopters. They are capable of covering search-and-rescue incidents out as far as the Magnus Field. Initially, the contract will run for one year.

A present search-and-rescue cover for the Shetlands is provided by the RAF from Lossiemouth, 150 miles to the south. Increased activity around the Shetlands has made it essential to base a helicopter facility in the Shetlands themselves. The Coastguard service is responsible for co-ordinating marine civil, search and rescue activities around the UK coast.

Health and Safety Executive Publications

The 1974 Health and Safety at Work Act gave the Health and Safety Commission responsibility for keeping some 25 million people informed of guidelines and regulations for their health and safety in places of work. The Commission has undertaken progressively to revise, standardise and extend the existing regulations and recommended practices. HSC/HSE publications reflect the major programme of research, inspection and consultation which is in hand.

Priced publications are obtainable only from HMSO or through booksellers. Some general leaflets, advice and information are available free of charge from HSE Area Officers or by post from the General Enquiry Point, Baynards House, 1 Chepstow Place, London W2 4TF (Tel. 01-229 3456 ext. 734).

Annual Reports

Health and Safety: Commission Report 1977-78 (£1.75) ISBN 011 883221 2
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Health and Safety: Mines and Quarries 1977 (£2.25) ISBN 011 883201 8
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Advisory Committee Reports and reports of special investigations etc.

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Some aspects of the safety of nuclear installations in Great Britain (Replies to questions submitted by the Secretary of State for Energy to the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate in October 1976) (£1) ISBN 011 8830015
One hundred fatal accidents in construction (90p) ISBN 011 883071 6
The Fire on HMS Glasgow. 23 September 1976 (£2.75) ISBN 011 883075 9
Asbestos: Measurement and Monitoring of Asbestos in Air (£1) ISBN 011 883084 8
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Canvey Island an investigation of potential hazards from operations in the Canvey Island/Thurrock area (£10) ISBN 011 883200 X (Summary of Report (£1) ISBN 011 883203 4)
Shift Work and Health: (£1.00) ISBN 011 8832166

Health and Safety at Work Series booklets

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* Health and Safety Commission leaflets

HSC 2 The Act outlined
HSC 3 Advice to employers
HSC 4 Advice to the self-employed
HSC 5 Advice to employees
HSC 6 Employers Policy Statements
HSC 7 Regulations, codes of practice guidance literature
HSC 8 Safety Committees guidance to employers whose employees are not members of recognised independent trade unions
HSC 9 Time off for the training of safety representatives

* Health and Safety Executive leaflets

HSE 1 After Flixborough . . . 10 vital questions for industry
HSE 4 Short guide to the Employers' Liability (Company Insurance) Act 1969
HSE 5 An introduction to the Employment Medical Advisory Service

* Agricultural Safety leaflets

AS1 A short guide to the 1974 Act
AS2 Tractors safety cabs
AS3 Bulls
AS4 Mushroom worker's lung
AS5 Farmer's lung
AS6 Crop spraying
AS7 Guns
AS8 Noise
AS10 Children
AS14 Cyanide gassing powders – Safe handling
AS16 Brakes for tractor-trailer safety
AS21 First aid in agriculture

* EMAS leaflets

MS(A)1 Lead and you
MS(A)3 Asbestos and you
MS(A)4 Study of asbestos workers
MS(A)5 The health of workers engaged in antimony oxide
MS(A)6 Vinyl chloride and you
MS(B)1 Ulceration of the skin and inside the nose caused by chrome
MS(B)3 Anthrax
MS(B)4 Effects on the skin of pitch and tar
MS(B)5 Skin cancer caused by oil
MS(B)6 Occupational industrial dermatitis
MS(B)7 Poisoning by pesticides

Guidance Notes

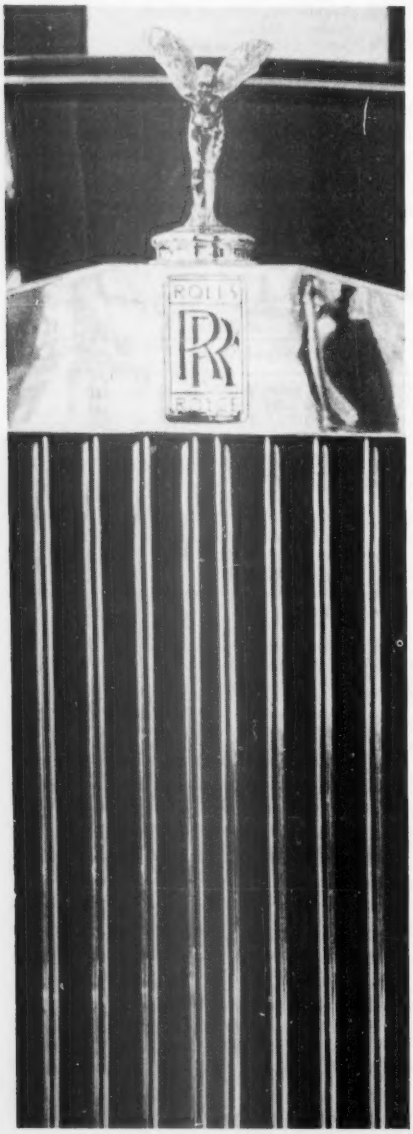
Guidance Notes (price 30p each) are too numerous to list here but are published under five headings:
Medical
Environmental Hygiene
Chemical Safety
Plant and Machinery
General.

Enquiries to HMSO

* *Free of charge*

Strategy for product quality

Quality is an essential element of world competition and must remain a key factor in selling British products. This is the theme of a consultative document – 'A national strategy for quality' – issued on 13 December by Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection.



The document outlines the present position in the UK of quality assurance in trade and industry, public purchasing and legislation and examines ways in which Britain might enhance its reputation for quality and simultaneously reduce industry's quality costs.

Need for a strategy

The paper finds that there is mounting evidence that purchasers in the UK of both industrial and consumer goods are becoming more aware of the importance of quality and total life costs. There is also clear evidence that retailers, led by the large multiple stores, are becoming increasingly conscious of the importance of quality. These rising requirements and expectations, coupled with strong competition on quality from overseas manufacturers, underline the importance for British manufacturers of satisfying customers' needs, thus helping to reduce import penetration in the home market.

Attention has been focused through the Industrial Strategy on the problems created by multiple assessments of firms' quality systems. These assessments have been carried out to a growing extent by large purchasing organisations in the UK – such as government departments, nationalised industries and large private firms – and have given rise to the criticism, particularly from small- and medium-sized manufacturers, that multiple assessments are a burden on limited staff resources, cause disruption to production, and add to the financial and administrative problems. To alleviate these difficulties, it has been suggested that there should be more co-ordination nationally.

In addition to meeting domestic requirements for assessment of their quality systems, British manufacturers in some sectors are increasingly having to meet the requirements of important overseas customers, particularly in north America. There is evidence that such manufacturers would see a market advantage in having their quality management systems recognised, for example, by an authoritative British customer, particularly if this led to wider international recognition.

There is an increasing demand in many overseas markets for certification of industrial and consumer goods for legal or commercial purposes. Although this is most marked in the developed countries, which currently take about three-quarters of UK exports, there are signs that developing countries are also beginning to make similar demands. Britain's domestic arrangements for certification and approval must therefore respond to the needs of its exporters.

The costs of defective quality (such as scrap, re-work and defective products) and of the attainment of quality (through appraisal and prevention) together commonly known as quality costs, vary from industry to industry and from firm to firm. For industry as a whole, they have been estimated to be about 10 per cent of turnover. Based on the 1976 census of production figure of £105 000 million for sales of goods producted by UK establishments, quality costs in the UK could be of the order of £10 000 million per year. Available evidence suggests that some firms have been able significantly to reduce their quality costs through vigorous quality management, leading to enhanced competitiveness, profitability and job security. If similar efforts were to take place on a national scale the resulting financial and resource savings would be substantial.

Definitions

'Quality' is defined as the totality of features and characteristics of a product or service that bear upon its ability to satisfy a given need; 'quality assurance' is defined as all activities and functions concerned with the attainment of quality.

Views sought

The document has been prepared in consultation with the government departments concerned and is being circulated widely to trade associations, nationalised industries, trades unions, employers' associations, retail and wholesale associations, consumer organisations, local authority associations, educational establishments, research associations, professional institutions, and to other bodies.

The paper seeks views by 31 March on the following:

☐ the need for a national drive to enhance Britain's reputation for quality

☐ the objectives and priorities of the proposed strategy

☐ the most appropriate means of co-ordinating the formulation, development and implementation of the strategy.

Views on other matters which relate to the quality of British goods and services but which are not covered in this paper would also be welcomed.

Inquiries and requests for copies of the paper to Mr S. G. Frankiss, Metrology, Quality Assurance and Standards Division, Department of Prices and Consumer Protection, Room 2815, Millbank Tower, Millbank, London SW1P 4QU, tel. 01-211 4539.

Development and implementation

It is suggested that the strategy should in particular seek to combine the resources of the UK to ensure that goods are designed to meet world market needs in function, appearance and price and that goods are manufactured consistently to conform to the design specifications at minimum cost. The strategy should also focus attention on the importance of after-sales service as customers regard this as an essential part of quality.

The document does not attempt to formulate a detailed strategy which would have to be developed jointly at a later stage, but suggests that the strategy might take in the three priority areas: ☐ Promoting a greater awareness of the importance of quality in meeting market needs ☐ Facilitating the implementation and assessment of modern quality management systems ☐ Ensuring that national arrangements for specifications, testing and certification of goods meet overseas market needs.

The implementation of a strategy should be based on voluntary co-operation between government, industry, commerce and consumer organisations. Existing national organisations active in the quality field should wherever possible be involved in contributing to the scheme. It would appear that the task of initiating and sustaining a national drive would need to be vested in a single focal body – a body in which all interests would have confidence. The document considers three options: using an existing body or a government department or creating a new body.

Government seeks views on audit committees and non-executive directors

'If there is to be a wider use, in our larger public companies, of non-executive directors and audit committees, the initiative cannot be left entirely to boards of directors,' Stanley Clinton Davis, Parliamentary-Under-Secretary of State for Companies, Aviation and Shipping, said on 13 December. He was speaking at a lunch in London during a European Study Conference on company law and the city.

Clinton Davis said that the government had that week asked the stock exchange for its views. As he believed that institutional investors had an important influence on the growth of the appointment of non-executive directors, the government would now like to hear their views and those of other interested parties as soon as possible. In particular, the government would like to know what obstacles they saw to the wider appointment of non-executive directors, how these could be overcome and whether they believed legislation had a part to play.

US visit

Mr Clinton Davis referred to his recent visit to the United States where he had found that, in spite of a number of problems and anxieties raised by audit committees and non-executive directors, there was overwhelming support for the developments that had occurred in recent years.

'While I do not believe one can simply transplant a system from one country to another,' he continued, 'we should examine it carefully and decide what benefits we would derive from building up our own experience.

'In this country leading accountancy firms have produced glossy brochures about audit committees, the English Institute of Chartered Accountants has held a recent conference on the subject, the CBI has produced a guidance note and the stock exchange has held discussions with interested parties. Just a few days ago the Governor of the Bank of England has lent his considerable authority to support audit committees.

'So, most people seem to agree that audit committees are a good thing but, regrettably, there has been too much talk and too little action.

'In the government's white paper on the conduct of company directors, published in November 1977, we referred to the advantages which non-executive directors can bring to company boards, and welcomed the consideration then being given to audit committees by the various bodies I have just mentioned.

'So far as I am aware, at present only a relatively small number of companies have established audit committees, and, without quoting the list, I would like to suggest that it has been a board rather than a shareholder initiative which had led to this innovation in most cases. Hence, the companies which have set up audit committees are not likely to be the ones that are most in need of them to keep an eye on management and provide a strengthening of the role of auditors in their relationship with the board.

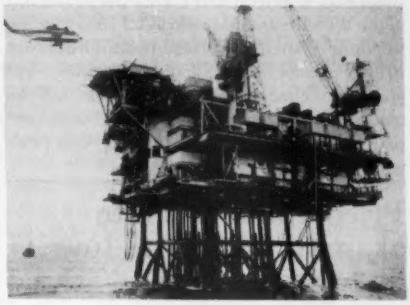
'If, in our larger public companies, there is to be a wider use of non-executive directors and of audit committees, the initiative cannot be left entirely to boards of directors. In the United States, where conditions are admittedly different, the lead had been taken by the New York stock exchange, and the government has made a new approach to the stock exchange this week to seek its views, perhaps through the listing agreement, on how to widen the practice of appointing non-executive directors of the right calibre, and of persuading companies to appoint audit committees where appropriate.

'I believe, however, that one of the most important influences which could lead to the growth of the appointment of non-executive directors is that of institutional investors. I fully agree with the Governor of the Bank of England's remarks, in a widely reported speech which he gave on 28 November, that institutional shareholders should take trouble to ensure that directors of companies, in which they have an important investment, are doing a good job, and that to do this there will need to be a greater degree of contact between institutional shareholders and companies than has been the case hitherto. One way in which this contract could be exercised is through a greater role in selecting non-executive directors, though let me stress that I am in no way suggesting that such directors should become representatives of the institutional shareholders.

Legislation – sometimes

'I do not wish to enter, today, the debate on the extent to which the city should regulate its own affairs. Sometimes, however, it is necessary to legislate in order to promote effective self-regulation. Up to now opinion has been against statutory requirements for non-executive directors and audit committees. But not enough has been done – it is for example over five years since Lord Watkinson, in the CBI report on the responsibilities of the British public company, concluded that it was desirable for boards to have a number of non-executive directors. There remains concern about the performance of many of our companies. The government would, therefore, like to hear, soon, from institutional investors and others what obstacles there are to the wider appointment of suitable non-executive directors, how these obstacles can be removed, and whether – and if so how – legislation has a part to play.'

North Sea oil and gas production



Almost 41 million tonnes of oil were produced from the nine oilfields producing in the UK sector of the North Sea during the period 1 April 1977 to 31 March 1978. In addition just over 40 000 million cubic metres of natural gas were produced from seven gasfields as well as 360 197 tonnes of condensate.

These statistics are given in the annual report of the Secretary of State for Energy under the Continental Shelf Act 1964, published on 13 December (HMSO, £2.25).

Licences granted

The report gives details of the licences granted during this period to search for and get oil and natural gas in areas beyond the low water mark, the licences held at the end of the year, and the method of calculating initial and periodic payments and royalties under the licences. A total of 93 production wells and 105 appraisal and exploration wells were drilling compared with 56 and 87 in the previous year.

Unit pricing of fish and poultry proposed

Proposals to extend the government's programme on unit pricing to cover poultry and fresh fish were announced in the house of commons on 13 December by Robert Maclennan, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection.

Comments

The proposals require the price per lb to be indicated for all poultry and to extend unit pricing to all fresh fish and to random weight packs of fish. Comments have been requested by 19 January and it is expected that the necessary orders will be laid shortly afterwards.

The proposals, which have been circulated to organisations representing consumers, retailers, packers and enforcement authorities are:

	Proposed requirement
Poultry	
Not pre-packed	Unit price (price per lb)
Pre-packed	Selling price and unit price
Fish	
Not pre-packed	Unit price (price per lb except certain fish normally sold by the ¼ lb)
Pre-packed (random weights)	Selling price and unit price

Discussions are continuing on the possi-

bility of introducing standardised quantities for fixed weight pre-packs of fish. Existing provisions for indicating the unit price of fish are contained in the Price Marking (Meat and Fish) Order 1974 (SI 1974, 1368).

Included in the consultation document are proposals to amend and clarify the provisions of the Weights and Measures Act 1963 relating to poultry, fish and sausage-meat. Orders are in force also for fresh fruit and vegetables, meat and most cheeses. The programme will be completed when processed meat and prepacked fruit and vegetables have been dealt with.

Price Commission to examine children's toys and games

Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, directed the Price Commission on 14 December to undertake an examination of prices, costs and margins in the manufacture and distribution of children's toys and games.

The terms of the direction are as follows:

The Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, pursuant to section 10(1) of the Price Commission Act 1977 and after consulting the Price Commission and the Director General of Fair Trading, hereby directs the Price Commission to examine and before 17 July 1979 to make a report to him on the following question:

the prices, costs and margins in the manufacture and distribution of children's toys and games (other than electronic games) having particular regard to metal toys and boxed indoor table games.

Dangerous goods in ships: 'blue book' published

Recommendations on the carriage of dangerous goods in ships were published on 15 December. The 'blue book' contains the report of the standing advisory committee on the carriage of dangerous goods, defines classes, and makes recommendations for the safe packaging, stowing and handling.

Revised rules, defining dangerous goods by reference to the blue book and to the international maritime dangerous goods code, come into operation on 29 December. The blue book – 'Carriage of dangerous goods in ships' is published by HMSO, price £9.

Merger proposals cleared

Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection Roy Hattersley has decided on the information at present before him, not to refer to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, under the provisions of the Fair Trading Act 1973, the proposed mergers between:

Associated Dairies Ltd and Allied Retailers Ltd.

Scovill Manufacturing Co and the Yale lock and hardware division of Eaton Ltd.

Whitecroft Ltd and Randalls Group Ltd.

Mr Hattersley has also decided not to refer to the commission the acquisition by Mr Travis Ward of a substantial minority shareholding in KCA International Ltd.

Construction for industrial recovery

'Construction for industrial recovery' is the title of a report produced by the building and civil engineering economic development committees to draw attention to the importance of good factory building for industrial efficiency. The main findings were covered last week in *Strategy News*, *Trade and Industry*'s monthly guide to developments in the Industrial Strategy. Copies of the report are available, price £2, from HMSO. The Nedo booklet 'Old buildings eat up your profits' is available free from Nedo Books, 11 Tothill Street, London SW1, tel. 01-222 0565.

Official appointments

Electricity Consultative Council. Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, has appointed Mr F. Hearn as a member of the London Electricity Consultative Council until 28 February 1980 and Councillor Barry James as deputy chairman of the Southern Electricity Consultative Council until 31 August 1981.

Gas Consumers' Council. Mr Hattersley has appointed Mr P. A. S. Taylor and Councillor J. Paton as members of the North Thames Gas Consumers' Council until 30 April 1981.

British ropes take the strain

The largest synthetic fibre rope in the world – 192 mm in circumference with a breaking strain of 600 tonnes – is plaited together by Hawkins and Tipson of Erith, Kent. The polypropylene rope – destined for a North Sea oilfield mooring buoy – is one of a range used for mooring anything from a sailing dinghy to a supertanker, or for towing anything from an offshore oil rig to an iceberg. Polypropylene is chosen for single point mooring buoys as it does not deteriorate through contact with water and it is completely inert to chemical substances likely to be encountered in marine use.

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New publications

Business opportunities in the USSR

Businessmen have been learning that doing business with the Soviet Union and the countries of eastern Europe is, in many ways, not like doing business elsewhere in the world. An exporter who is prepared for these differences may avoid many frustrations and save weeks, or even months, of delays in negotiations. At a time when trading opportunities with the USSR are increasing, guidance about its practice and philosophy of international business should be welcomed. 'Winning business in the USSR', a collection of seven essays, is designed to provide just this advice.

Written from an American perspective, it looks at the subject within the context of the Soviet economic structure and the changeable and politically dominated commercial relationship between the United States and the USSR. More specific information is included in chapters concerned with the organisation and legal aspects of foreign trade. Also considered are commercial dealings with other Comecon countries, the economic and political background to the state of Soviet technology, and prospects for trade in the energy sector.

With the exception of a chapter providing a lawyer's view of trade with the USSR, the book concentrates largely on general observations and theory to the exclusion, unfortunately, of much valuable statistical data and information of a more practical kind. But the publication will serve as a useful introduction for businessmen without previous experience of dealing with a state-trading country. It makes a valuable contribution in an area where information and experience is difficult to obtain.

Winning business in the USSR, by Joseph Berliner, Robert Campbell, and others. Graham and Trotman Ltd, Bond Street House, 14 Clifford Street, London W1X 1RD. 1978. 94 pages; paperback £15.00 (ISBN 0 86919 122 3).

Revealed: the mysteries of commodity trade

Despite its long history, commodity trading is still something of a mystery to those not directly involved. The cause to some extent is its remoteness from the public compared with, for example, the stock exchange. To fill the information gap, the Federation of Commodity Associations has produced a new publication: 'The international commodity markets in the European community'.

The booklet outlines the activities of the international markets, noting especially the long history and pre-eminence of the City of London in this field. General procedures and terms are explained, and there is a detailed examination of individual commodity markets such as cocoa, jute and wool: in each case the booklet provides details of the respective commodity trading association and explains the functions of the International Commodities Clearing House.

Since 1943, an international federation of commodity trading associations has existed to represent the interests of various national associations and this, we discover, has now been afforded direct access to the EEC commission on commodity matters.

For those whose appetite has been whetted, there is a section on careers in commodities. To complete a useful package there is a glossary of terms and a short bibliography.

The international commodity markets in the European community. The Federation of Commodity Associations, Plantation House, Mincing Lane, London EC3M 3HT. 1978. 44 pages; paperback £1.50 (ISBN 0 85941 109 5).

Retailing in Germany and the UK

Alarms have been frequently sounded over the last few years for the vanishing corner or village shop – and it is obviously pertinent to ask how recent British experience in this (and other) aspects of retailing compares with that of other western countries.

Following two recent visits to the Federal Republic of Germany, Richard Evely, with the support of the Anglo-German Foundation for the Study of Industrial Society, has identified a great many issues common to both countries. His findings have been published by Development Analysts Ltd.

Mr Evely points out that the number of retail businesses in Germany has fallen by about a quarter since 1962 and that the most significant feature of the period has been the rise of the 'superstore' – a phenomenon to which he devotes a whole chapter. He notes that whereas Germany has recently taken steps to restrict its burgeoning superstore development, Britain has cultivated a more accommodating climate.

Unfortunately he finds it hard to locate any firmly documented evidence on the effect of the superstore on the retail trade, but considers it unlikely that they have made anything but a minor contribution towards the decline of small shops.

Weighing the difference in the size of sales areas in Britain and Germany, the author concludes that the general standard of facilities in independent retail shops in the latter is higher than in the former. He feels the social effects of concentration inconvenience rather than cause hardship in rural areas, pointing out that many of the less prosperous urban areas are not much better off. The comparative data presented should be of value to all interested in the retail trade and its problems.

Issues in retailing: a comparative study of the current situation in the Federal Republic of Germany and in the United Kingdom, by Richard Evely. Development Analysts Ltd, 49 Lower Addiscombe Road, Croydon CR0 6PQ. 1978. 61 pages; paperback £3.50.

A library for exporters

Trade and other economic statistics from almost every country in the world, including the UK, are available for reference in the Statistics and Market Intelligence Library at Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU, tel. 01-248 5757 ext. 368/369, telex 886143 (DTI Export LDN). A modern well-equipped library of over 100 000 volumes, it has a public reading room equipped with microfiche readers and photocopying facilities. Among the documents available are foreign trade directories covering some 170 countries and selected trade fair catalogues. The library is open from 09.00 to 17.30, Monday to Friday (last passes for the building are issued at 17.15).

Practical approach to receiverships

Receivership aspects of insolvency law have become an essential element of the finance of private enterprise and the lender-borrower relationship in England and Wales today. Much of the published literature on the subject tends to be of a legal textbook nature and of limited value to the practical administrator, credit controller, banker, or accountant, who is daily confronted with the intricacies of legislation. It is with this readership in mind that Donald Chilvers and Paul Shewell have compiled the 'Receivership manual'.

The objective is to give practical advice in solving the principal problems facing someone appointed as a receiver. The book begins by defining the term 'receivership' and considers its legal aspects, especially the question of relationships with those having a direct interest – banks, suppliers, preferential creditors and employees. As receivers are usually appointed by bankers, a special chapter is devoted to the receiver-banker relationship. There is a description of the powers and responsibilities of a receiver including the procedure required on appointment. The authors evaluate the alternatives offered by disposal and reorganisation, necessary before a decision can be reached on the future course of the receivership process. In a final chapter, the authors highlight the unique role a receiver can play in rescuing a business in difficulty. The appendices are longer than the text itself and include a checklist of the receivers' duties, specimen letters and copies of official forms.

At the moment, the book is a useful manual for receivers but major changes in legislation may be on the cards when the Cork Committee has published its findings.

Receivership manual, by Donald Chilvers and Paul Shewell. Tolley. 1978. xiv, 129 pages; paperback £7.50 (ISBN 0 510 49367 X).

Technology news

Spider provides an atmospheric environment at 600 m

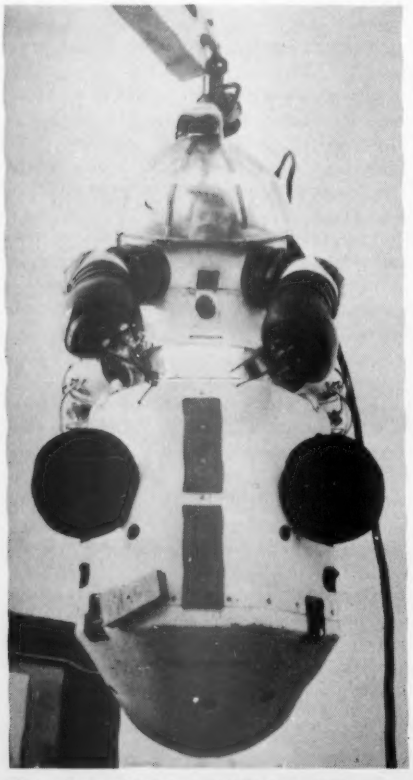
Spider, a one-man atmospheric submersible being deployed by Wharton Williams Diving Co of Aberdeen, can be operated at a depth of 600 m by a diver after only 20 hours' tuition. A specialist in underwater surveillance could make dives for long periods without side effects to make his own on-the-spot assessment. The submersible was built to Wharton Williams' specification by Vickers-Slingsby Ltd of Kirbymoorside, Yorkshire.

Glass-reinforced polyester-resin (grp) provides the 2.2 m long Spider with a lightweight, corrosion resistant, thermally and electrically insulated outer-casing. The oxygen concentration and atmospheric pressure are continuously monitored and controlled by the operator. Carbon dioxide is removed from the atmosphere by means of an electrically powered scrubber re-circulating the air through a chemical absorber. This overcomes the time-consuming decompression problems associated with deep-sea diving, for seabed surveying, pipeline inspection and light construction work on the sea floor.

The submersible is tethered to a mother ship by an umbilical cable which is used for power and communications, and for launch and recovery. In emergencies, the cable can be jettisoned along with the ballast weights and the hydraulic power pack. Emergency batteries on board will then take over to provide 72 hours of life support.

Spider is propelled by six 1-hp thrusters. Infinitely variable foot controls permit simultaneous operation of all thrusters. The diver can control articulated arms that have hydraulically powered claws with variable grip force and a continuous rotation facility. Suction feet lock onto underwater objects to form an anchor and the operator can vary the attitude from 45 ° backwards to 80 ° nose down from the vertical position. Autopilot control can be selected to give any desired heading.

Spider takes the plunge.



Energy worth £3½m going to pot in the potteries

Over 3200 terajoules of energy – worth over £3½ million and equivalent to over 50 000 tons of oil – could be saved by the pottery industry using current technology. This estimate is made in a Department of Industry report published on 14 December.

The saving, which represents over 15 per cent of the current annual energy consumption by the industry, can be achieved through the increased use of many energy-saving opportunities. The main opportunities include waste-heat recovery, insulation of kiln and kiln trucks, and improvement of factory services.

The report also recommends further actions that would help to use energy more efficiently.

It says practical studies could be carried out to determine how much energy is saved in intermittent kilns by using ceramic fibre, recuperative burners and faster firing cycles. Factory trials are recommended to determine the heat exchange efficiencies of thermal wheels and waste-heat boilers as are monitored trials to determine the energy savings from the insulation of tunnel-kiln truck bases.

These projects have been accepted for funding by the Department of Industry and the investigations are now under way. The report also concludes that further work is needed in the development of reliable economic waste heat recovery systems; investigations of dryers and dehumidifiers; relative merits of tunnel and intermittent kilns; heat transfer in kilns; development of low temperature firing bodies; and self-generation of electricity.

The report was prepared by the British Ceramic Research Association following its visits to manufacturing sites in the pottery industry under the Department of Industry's industrial energy thrift scheme (IETS).

Since the completion of the campaign of IETS visits, the Department of Industry has announced a £25 million scheme to provide grants to promote energy heating conservation in industry and commerce. The scheme, known as the energy conservation scheme, should help encourage investment in some of the energy-saving opportunities identified in this report.

Copies of the report may be obtained from the Librarian, Department of Industry, Ashdown House, 123 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6RB, tel. 01-212 6189.

DoI supports search for sperm oil substitute

Projects to develop commercially acceptable alternatives to sperm oil for lubrication in leather manufacture may qualify for financial support from the Department of Industry.

The British Leather Manufacturers' Research Association (BLMRA) has completed an investigation of alternatives for sperm whale oil for use in the lubrication of leather. The Department of Industry encourages the use of substitutes for sperm oil where possible, and the report draws attention to the reduction over the last few years in the use of sperm oil in the UK leather industry.

The research association, the leather industry and the oil processors have all contributed to the development of replacements, some of which are in commercial use. However, unforeseen problems have arisen in introducing some products into tanneries, and the indication is that much remains to be done before alternatives are available for use in making the full range of high-quality leathers.

The project at BLMRA has been funded by the garment and allied industries requirements board.

The department is open to request for support from projects aiming to develop commercially acceptable alternatives to sperm oil. Approaches should be made to the nearest regional office or headquarters.

The report is available from the British Leather Manufacturers' Research Association, Kings Park Road, Moulton Park, Northampton NN3 1JD price £4.00, including post and packing.

BSI document on radio interference published

A new document from the British Standards Institution provides information that will be of interest to all concerned with radio interference and particularly to exporters and importers of equipment that may give rise to interference.

'Limits of radio interference and leakage currents according to CISPR and national regulations' (PD 6485) is not a British Standard – the number refers to the 'published document' series.

Copies of PD 6485, price £9.30, may be obtained from BSI Sales Department, 101 Pentonville Road, London N1 9ND.

New products

Freepost reader service

For further information on items in this section, circle the corresponding number on the reader services page near the end of the magazine.

Crane 'Loadwatcher' designed for user requirements

Wylie Safe Load Indicators Ltd has supplemented its range of telescopic boom-crane safety equipment with a sophisticated indicator known as 'Loadwatcher' which meets all requirements at present in existence and anticipated until well into the 1980s. Based on extensive discussion and research with crane users right across the industry, the Loadwatcher's design incorporates all the features most widely required while eliminating, it is claimed, the limitations and service difficulties of some current indicators.

The design concept remains almost entirely mechanical, thus retaining the ruggedness of its predecessors, but the load signal is transmitted to the cab by a simple electric transducer system which permits flexible and sophisticated visual presentation of the readings. The system is straight forward, contains no complicated electronics, is reliable in use and can be serviced by any competent electrician.

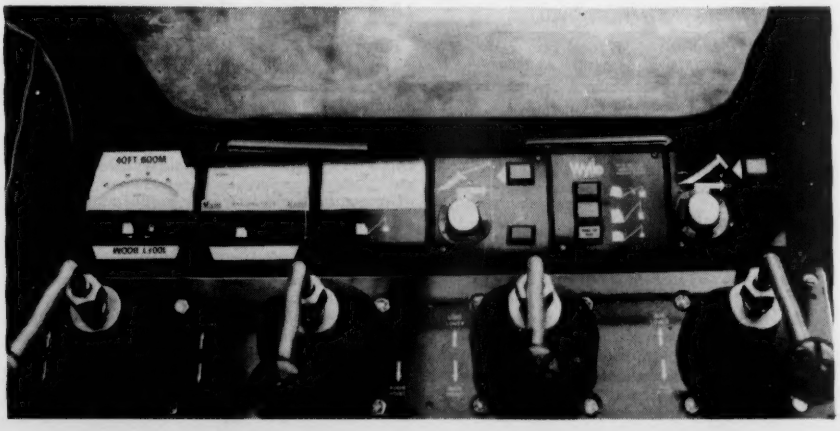
Loadwatcher giver the operator a clear and continuous picture of his margin of safety and also indicates the load-on-hook and other required data such as the permitted load, radius and/or boom angle. Information is shown on clear, easily read visual display units. Being of modular construction, these can be built up in any combination and configuration to meet individual requirements. The complete display can be planned either horizontally or vertically to suit any particular cab layout. Automatic compensation for operation on a slope may be in-built.

The system can be supplied either with fully automatic warning alarms, or simply as a visual load indicator. Indicator settings may be selected either automatically or at the touch of a switch. No cam changing is required when changing hoist line falls. The installation provides storage for one or more cams as required, precut to each load curve at Wylie's factory using the latest available fully automated process; or on site after installation.

The pulley-type dynamometer is of entirely mechanical construction, except for the electrical transducer and the cable connecting it to the indicator in the cab. It has a novel geometrical design which minimises rope wear and is suitable for operation with either standard or die-form ropes.

Further information: circle 262

Wylie's 'Loadwatcher' gives a crane operator all the information he needs for safety, including visible and audible warning of limits being reached.



Digital-to-analogue converter uses fewer chips

Burr-Brown International Ltd has introduced a digital-to-analogue converter which, the company claims, provides good performance and high reliability at the lowest cost for a product of this type. The low-cost stems from an intensive development programme over the past few years, aimed at reducing the number of integrated circuits in hybrid digital-to-analogue converters without adversely affecting performance. An important by-product of fewer integrated circuits, apart from reduced cost, is an increase in product reliability.

The new DAC 71 contains only 14 (current output) or 16 (voltage output) integrated circuits compared with 35 in the DAC 70. This improvement has been achieved by combining the current-weighting resistors, scale-down resistors, offset trim resistors, feedback resistors and voltage reference resistors on one thin film resistor network, and thick film resistors in non-critical portions of the circuit. Because of this, Burr-Brown is able to use a computer-controlled laser to trim actively resistor values in one-fifteenth of the time taken previously. In addition, the technique provides a much improved stability both with respect to temperature changes and time.

The DAC 71 is available for three types of digital input: complementary offset binary; complementary straight binary; and complementary binary-coded decimal. There are versions with either current or voltage output. All are housed in 24-pin DIP compatible ceramic packages and are intended for use over the industrial temperature range from 0 to 70° C. Maximum linearity error is ±0.003 per cent.

The low-cost and high performance of this product will facilitate its use in large numbers in such equipment as function generators, test equipment, calibration standards, machine tool controllers, graphic composition machines.

Further information: circle 263

Cross-lamination makes tougher packaging film

Production of a new plastic film, claimed to be tougher than any other of comparable weight and thickness, has begun at the Aylesford, Maidstone, factory of Reed Plastic Packaging Ltd.

Called Reedex-F, it is based principally on polypropylene but also contains other polymers essential to achieve the required film characteristics. It is manufactured by cold lamination and biaxial orientation, using a patented cold roll technique, of two or more cross oriented layers of co-extruded film.

The new product is the result of more than 10 years research and development by Danish inventor Ole-Bendt Rasmussen, who was inspired by the considerable improvement in strength which plywood has over wood of the same thickness. Reed Plastic Packaging has acquired a fully exclusive licence to manufacture and sell Reedex-F in the United Kingdom, Eire, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, together with sub-licensing rights, and also has manufacturing and selling rights in other parts of the world.

Reedex-F film is being produced in reels up to 1.5 metres wide in two substances – 70 grammes per square metre and 90 grammes per square meter (gsm) – both are superior to 184 gsm and 230 gsm low-density polyethlene film respectively, in terms of tear strength, impact and puncture resistance.

The film will be suitable for many applications for which plastic is not at present used. It is stabilised against weathering to ensure long life and it can be subjected to high frequency electronic treatment to ensure permanent ink adhesion. It can be heat sealed, sewn, eyeletted, taped and nailed, has excellent frictional properties due to its surface characteristics, and will be available in a range of colours.

Some of the potential applications envisaged by Reed Plastic Packaging will be in packaging, building and construction, outdoor leisure activities, agriculture and horticulture, and general weatherproofing.

Further information: circle 264

Parliament

Monday, 11 December

Market entry guarantee scheme

Mr T. H. H. Skeet (Bedford) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what measure of assitance was envisaged by the market entry guarantee scheme; and whether it was intended to extend the scheme to benefit large United Kingdom petrochemical companies operating abroad.

Mr Meacher answered that the market entry guarantee scheme was designed particularly to help smaller and medium-sized firms in manufacturing industry to deal with the financial risk and problems associated with a venture to develop a new export market. In approved cases the scheme would contribute 50 per cent of the eligible overhead costs of the market venture up to a maximum contribution of £100,000. (The minimum contribution is £20,000.) In return for this contribution, a levy on sales receipts was made; this was intended to recover the contributions with a commercial rate of return on the scheme's investment. If, by the end of the agreed venture period, sales had not materialised as expected, then no further levy payments were required and the firm and the scheme would share the loss. For this guarantee the firm paid the scheme an annual premium.

The scheme, which was being operated by the British Overseas Trade Board on a two-year experimental basis was, however, open to any firm irrespective of its size exporting a tangible product manufactured in the United Kingdom. Assistance under the scheme would therefore be available to large United Kingdom petrochemical companies so long as the proposed venture was capable of satisfying the scheme's guidelines.

Textile imports

Nicholas Winterton (Macclesfield) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what arrangements his department intended to take either directly or through the EEC with the Mediterranean associates which will effectively contain their disruptive potential in the sphere of textile imports.

M Meacher replied that the European commission had started negotiations aimed at reaching restraint arrangements for 1979 with the Mediterranean textile suppliers. It was expected that the existing arrangements with Morocco and Tunisia would be extended, while in the case of Spain, Portugal and Greece, the aim would be to renew the improved arrangements which had been negotiated during 1978. Malta and Turkey had so far proved unwilling to enter into negotiations, and it might be necessary again to consider safeguard action if their exports to the community in 1979 reached disruptive levels. His department was keeping closely in touch with these negotiations and he expected the council of ministers to consider their outcome when it met on 19 December.

Anglo-Soviet agreement

Peter Blaker (Blackpool South) asked how much of the credit of £950 million extended to the USSR in 1975 had now been taken up.

Mr Meacher answered that the total value of contracts financed under the Anglo-Soviet agreement was now £444.4 million.

Uganda Airways

Greville Janner (Leicester West) asked the Secretary of State for Trade whether he would now cause the whisky-run flight to Uganda from Stansted airport to be terminated.

Mr Smith said that the question of the termination of these charter flights by Uganda Airways from Stansted had wider aviation and trade implications. He was, however, keeping the situation under review.

Register of business names

John Wakeham (Maldon) asked the Secretary of State for Trade how many applications to register a business name had been received in each of the last 10 years for which figures were available by the registrar of business names for England and Wales, the registrar of business names for Scotland and the registrar of business names for Northern Ireland, respectively, He also asked what was the total income of, the total cost of running and what had been the average number of staff employed by the registrars of business names for England and Wales, for Scotland and for Northern Ireland in each of the last five years for which figures were available.

Mr Clinton Davis said that in providing the information requested by the questioner he should point out that the Secretary of State for Trade had no responsibility for the operations of the registrar of business names in Belfast. The relevant figures were as follows:

NUMBER OF ACCEPTED APPLICATIONS TO REGISTER A BUSINESS NAME

	England and Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland (includes changes and cessations)
1969	73 604	2 667	750
1970	75 981	2 805	729
1971	75 864	2 864	675
1972	92 250	3 456	706
1973	100 800	4 025	894
1974	86 600	4 040	718
1975	91 555	3 989	815
1976	102 645	4 737	973
1977	111 023	5 207	1 190
1978 (first 48 weeks)	125 679	5 510	1 391

TOTAL RECEIPTS IN RESPECT OF FEES £

Financial year	England and Wales	Scotland	Calendar year	Northern Ireland
1973/74	122 060	5 304	1974	168
1974/75	110 453	5 130	1975	182
1975/76	117 756	5 940	1976	225
1976/77	135 389	7 288	1977	274
1977/78	139 256	7 364	1978 (to 30 Nov)	354

TOTAL RUNNING COSTS £

Financial year	England and Wales	Scotland	Calendar year	Northern Ireland
1973/74	216 476	7 062	1974	3 415
1974/75	303 311	9 782	1975	3 755
1975/76	362 732	10 873	1976	4 132
1976/77	508 354	11 686	1977	4 545
1977/78	740 962	12 493	1978 (to 30 Nov)	5 000

AVERAGE NUMBER OF STAFF EMPLOYED

Financial year	England and Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland
1973/74	52	2	1
1974/75	51	2	1
1975/76	51	2	1
1976/77	69	2	1
1977/78	75	2	1

Plastics industry

Mr T. H. H. Skeet (Bedford) asked whether the council of ministers or the commission had considered in relation to the plastics industry the possibility of providing legislation similar to the Robinson-Patman Act of the United States.

Mr Huckfield said that he was advised that the possibility had not been considered by the council of ministers or the commission. The government's view, however, was that there would be considerable practical difficulties in introducing such legislation in Europe, given the differences in market structure.

Ministers

Department of Industry

Secretary of State: Eric Varley
Ministers of State: Alan Williams
Gerald Kaufman
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State: Leslie Huckfield

Department of Trade

Secretary of State: John Smith
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Michael Meacher
Stanley Clinton Davis

Department of Prices and Consumer Protection

Secretary of State: Roy Hattersley
Minister of State: John Fraser
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State: Robert Maclennan

Further legislation for fireworks

Janet Fookes (Plymouth, Drake) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection if he would introduce a bill in the current session of parliament restricting the sale of fireworks.

Mr Fraser said that he had no present intention of introducing further legislation concerning the sale of fireworks, but the situation would be kept under review.

Petrochemical sites

Mr T. H. H. Skeet (Bedford) asked the Secretary of State for Industry if it was his policy to undertake the establishment of a national authority to promote and develop petrochemical sites.

Mr Huckfield said: no. He said that these matters were already being examined in detail by existing inter-departmental machinery. The government accepted that no major industrial investment should be lost through an inability to provide sites in the right place at the right time. Action had already been taken to give high priority to the needs of industry in the fields of planning and land; for example, local authorities have been asked to give industry top priority in the handling of planning applications and making land available for development.

International Natural Rubber Organisation

David Knox (Leek) asked what instructions had been given to the British representative at the United Nations conference in Geneva at present negotiating an international rubber agreement, regarding the location of the future headquarters of its operating council.

Mr Huckfield replied that the United Kingdom representatives at the present United Nations conference in Geneva on natural rubber had proposed London as the seat of the envisaged International Natural Rubber Organisation. There were many good reasons for choosing London and the United Kingdom representatives had been instructed to make these clear to other delegations.

Future of Chrysler (UK)

Kenneth Clarke (Rushcliffe) asked whether the government had now signed a new agreement with PSA Peugeot-Citroen on the future of Chrysler (UK) Ltd in line with the heads of agreement drawn up in September.

Mr Huckfield said that no agreement had yet been signed.

Government aid to motor manufacturers

Doug Hoyle (Nelson and Colne) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what had been the total amount of government financial aid, in all forms, given to each of the four main motor manufacturers, namely Ford, Vauxhall, Leyland and Chrysler, in each of the last 10 years or for such period as the information was available; in what forms financial aid was made available; and how much of it was linked specifically to investment expenditure.

Mr Huckfield answered that British Leyland had received general financial assistance since the publication of the Ryder report as follows:

£ million

	1975	1976	1977	1978
British Leyland Act 1975	200	—	—	—
NEB funds (Industry Act 1975)	—	—	120	300
Section 8 of Industry Act 1972	—	—	30	150
Total	200	—	150	450
Equity or loan	Equity	—	Loan	Equity

Under the terms of the January 1976 agreement, a total maximum commitment of £162.5 million was made to Chrysler (UK) Ltd. To date, £51.5 million had been paid towards losses and £37 million in loan money towards specific investment projects.

BL, Chrysler, Vauxhall and Ford had all benefited from schemes of assistance which were available to industry generally. In general, details of financial assistance given to companies were a matter between the department and the company concerned. Details of payments of regional development grants of over £25,000 had, however, been published quarterly in *Trade and Industry* since 31 December 1974. Offers of assistance of over £10,000 under sections 7 and 8 of the Industry Act 1972 were also published in *Trade and Industry*.

Grants and assistance.to Ford

John Watkinson (West Gloucestershire) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what was the estimated total of all grants and assistance payable to the Ford Motor Company under agreements already reached between the company and the government with regard to each Ford site in the United Kingdom.

Mr Huckfield said that under existing agreements it was estimated that providing investment proceeds as planned, Ford would receive over several years a total of £76 million. The majority of this would be related to investment at Bridgend and Halewood. In addition, the company would remain eligible for regional development grants on qualifying expenditure in assisted areas. So far as Bridgend and associated engine- and car-related developments elsewhere were concerned, it was estimated that regional development grants would amount to some £70 million.

Sector working parties

Hal Miller (Bromsgrove and Redditch) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what progress he had to report on the results of the sector working parties.

Mr Huckfield said that the sector working parties were working well. They were currently finalising their end year reports for 1978 which would be presented to the National Economic Development Council in February next year.

Government-owned factories

Frederick Willey (Sunderland North) asked the Secretary of State for Industry whether he would make a statement on the progress made in bringing into productive use the vacant space in government-owned factories in Sunderland.

Mr Huckfield said that since January 1977, 14 factories totalling 8800 m² had been allocated to manufacturing industry. When in full production, the companies concerned were expected to employ over 400 people. While he would have liked to report more progress, he thought this was a creditable effort given the continuing international economic recession.

Tuesday, 12 December

Microelectronics

Gwynfor Evans (Carmarthen) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what proportion of the £400 million invested by the state in microelectronics was invested in Wales; and what proportion of the further £100 million announced by the Prime Minister to encourage the industrial use of microelectronics was likely to be invested in Wales.

Mr Huckfield said that the measures to encourage the application of microelectronics, announced by the Prime Minister on 6 December, comprised measures costing in the region of £100 million. Of this sum, £40 million was for the extension of the existing £15 million microprocessor applications project; the remainder represented the cost of promoting training for microelectronic applications and, subject to further study, of various relevant improvements in educational provision. In addition to these measures the government had previously established the microelectronics industry support programme (£70 million) to encourage the production of microelectronic components and equipment, and assistance would continue to be given through other existing schemes, eg regional development grants. The NEB, with government approval, was to invest some £50 million in Inmos which would manufacture 'chips'. This whole programme should enable British industry to compete more effectively with its overseas competitors. These funds were intended to aid industry throughout the country and it was not possible to predict what proportion of the funds would go to Wales; that would be influenced by the response of industry in Wales.

Washing machine imports

Wyn Roberts (Conway) asked the Secretary of State for Trade how many domestic washing appliances had been imported into the United Kingdom in the past year; what this represented as a proportion of total sales; and if he would give similar figures for the previous four years.

Mr Meacher said that the information requested was as follows:

UK IMPORTS OF DOMESTIC WASHING MACHINES '000

1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978 [1]
425	365	431	466	461	243

[1] To 30 June.

UK IMPORTS OF DOMESTIC WASHING MACHINES AS A PROPORTION OF THE DOMESTIC MARKET Per cent

1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978 [1]
30.0	32.1	29.5	30.7	33.9	32.8

[1] To 30 June.

Textile imports

Mike Noble (Rossendale) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what had been the growth in imports of the various categories of textile goods, by volume and by value, from other member states in the EEC, to the latest available date in 1978, compared with the same period for 1977.

Mr Meacher gave the following details:

		Jan-Oct 1977		Jan-Oct 1978		Percentage growth	
	SITC rev 2	Weight (Tonnes)	Value (£'000 cif)	Weight (Tonnes)	Value (£'000 cif)	By weight	By value
Textile yarn (including wool tops and tops of animal hair)	Mainly 651	83 633	146 250	97 698	175 855	16.8	20.2
Cotton fabrics, woven (not including narrow or special fabrics)	652	11 492	48 739	17 677	77 128	53.8	58.2
Fabric woven of man-made fibres (not including narrow or special fabrics)	653	27 733	115 761	41 174	178 972	48.5	54.6
Textile fabrics, woven, other than of cotton or man-made fibres	654	6 528	25 766	10 603	41 039	62.4	59.3
Knitted or crocheted fabrics (including tubular knit fabrics, pile fabrics and open-work fabrics)	655	2 401	11 938	2 806	14 865	16.9	24.5
Tulle, lace, embroidery, ribbons, trimmings and other small wares	656	677	4 259	810	5 824	19.6	36.7
Special textile fabrics and related products	657	18 777	39 083	24 934	49 971	32.8	27.9
Made-up articles, wholly or chiefly of textile materials, n.e.s.	658	5 956	19 584	7 680	23 015	28.9	17.5
Floor coverings, etc	659	26 344	40 015	34 114	53 163	29.5	32.9
Synthetic fibres suitable for spinning	266	42 140	35 151	51 022	42 145	21.1	19.9
Other man-made fibres suitable for spinning and waste of man-made fibres	267	5 383	3 324	8 258	4 664	53.4	40.3
Men's and boys' outer garments of textile fabrics (other than knitted or crocheted goods)	842	3 390	43 448	4 570	60 917	34.8	40.2
Women's, girls' and infants' outer garments of textile fabrics (other than knitted or crocheted)	843	3 393	47 964	3 902	62 964	15.0	31.3
Under garments of textile fabrics (other than knitted or crocheted)	844	594	8 403	615	9 142	3.5	8.8
Outer garments and other articles, knitted or crocheted, not elastic or rubberised	845	3 760	42 354	4 465	50 519	18.8	19.3
Under garments, knitted or crocheted, of wool or fine animal hair, not elastic or rubberised	846	2 281	15 813	2 716	20 011	19.1	26.5
Clothing accessories of textile fabrics (other than knitted or crocheted goods)	847	578	9 471	813	11 619	40.7	22.7
Total		245 060	657 323	313 857	881 813	28.1	34.2

Note: The information above is given on the current basis of the Overseas Trade Statistics of the United Kingdom (SITC rev 2), with slight modification to achieve greater equivalence of coverage between 1977 and 1978.

Free circulation

Nicholas Winterton (Macclesfield) asked the Secretary of State for Trade if he would undertake a review of the concept of 'free circulation' in relation to the burden-sharing policy within the multifibre arrangement.

Mr Meacher said that goods in free circulation and subject to the multifibre arrangement accounted for only a very small proportion of Britain's total low-cost imports of clothing and textiles. In only one of the eight most sensitive categories had imports under free circulation exceeded 1 per cent of all low-cost imports, and these imports would at least in part have been offset by exports (though the latter could not be quantified).

Marine interrogation transponders

Rear-Admiral Morgan-Giles (Winchester) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what consideration he had given to the need for a marine radar interrogation transponder system for the identification of vessels at sea and, in particular, large tankers.

Mr Clinton Davis said that the use of marine radar interrogation transponders had been under consideration for some time but so far there had been little national or international support for their introduction. However, he did recognise the urgent need to examine all measures, including transponders, that might provide greater safety of navigation and consequently protection of British coasts and his department's safety of navigation committee was again reviewing the advantages claimed for this system.

Appointment of official trustee

*Bob Cryer (Keighley) asked the Secretary of State for Industry, pursuant to his answer of 5 December (*Trade and Industry, *15 December), if he would list the experience under the Industry Act 1972, facilitated by the requirements of the Employment Protection Act 1975 which met the circumstances of the proposed appointment of an official trustee; and how these two acts assisted in preventing the closure or proposed closure of Moderna Ltd, Thorn's television factory at Bradford, or Steel House Press Ltd, Liverpool.*

Mr Huckfield said that the requirements for advance notification of redundancies under the Employment Protection Act 1975 and the powers to provide assistance under section 7 and 8 of the 1972 Industry Act had enabled a considerable number of

companies, in financial difficulty, to be re-established on a sound and viable basis.

In the cases referred to by the questioner, neither Thorn nor Moderna had applied for assistance. The application in respect of Steel House Press did not meet the criteria of viability.

Wednesday, 13 December

Projects financed by the EIB

Mike Noble (Rossendale) asked the Secretary of State for Industry how many projects were currently being financed, either partly or wholly, through his department by the European Investment Bank in the various intermediate areas of the country; and what proportion of total European Investment Bank finance in the United Kingdom this represented.

Mr Huckfield replied that, under the agency scheme operated by his department, one loan of £250,000 had been approved for a project in an intermediate area. This represented just over 1 per cent of the £18,964,000 total of loans so far approved under that scheme. One other application from an intermediate area submitted by his department was currently being examined by the European Investment Bank, whilst two other applications were being considered by his department.

EIB finance approved

Mike Noble (Rossendale) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what was the total amount of finance approved by his department in its capacity as intermediary for the European Investment Bank; and what was the total approved in each assisted area.

Mr Huckfield said that loans totalling £11,689,000 had so far been approved by his department and the European Investment Bank under the agency scheme introduced on 1 January 1978. Of this total, loans for projects in the northern region amounted to £9,712,000, those in the north west region to £1,085,000 and those in the south west region to £892,000. In addition, the Scottish Economic Planning Department had arranged loans totalling £4,295,000, and the Welsh Office Industry Department loans totalling £2,980,000. The total of loans approved under this scheme for projects in Great Britain therefore amounted to £18,964,000.

Requests for EIB finance

Mike Noble (Rossendale) asked the Secretary of State for Industry how many requests for finance had been received by his department in its capacity as intermediary for the European Investment Bank, from each assisted area; and how many had been approved for each assisted area:

Mr Huckfield gave the following information:

	Applications received	Approved by department and EIB
Northern region	27	12
North west	7	3
South west	8	3
Yorkshire and Humberside	8	—

In addition, the Scottish Economic Planning Department and Welsh Office Industry Department had had the following applications:

	Applications received	Approved by department and EIB
SEPD	14	5
WOID	28	9

The majority of cases not yet approved were under consideration by the departments concerned or the bank.

Third-world imports

Christopher Brocklebank-Fowler (North West Norfolk) asked the Secretary of State for Industry if he would estimate the sectors of British manufacturing industry which, assuming that no further import restrictions were imposed by the government, were likely to lose their competitive advantage to third-world imports over the next five years.

Mr Huckfield said that industries most likely to face severe competition from the third world would be those which had been unable to maintain a sufficient competitive edge to offset the lower labour costs of third-world competitors. The extent to which such industries were able to maintain their competitive advantage over the next five years would depend on their success in improving their productive efficiency, marketing and the sophistication and other characteristics of their products.

EIB finance and development grants

Mike Noble (Rossendale) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what was his policy towards the provision of finance from the European Investment Bank for projects in special development areas, development areas and intermediate areas, respectively.

Mr Huckfield said that the secretary of state was prepared to consider for submission to the European Investment Bank, under the agency arrangements introduced on 1 January 1978, viable projects in manufacturing industry which created additional employment in development areas and special development areas and satisfied the criteria for assistance under section 7 of the Industry Act 1972. He was also prepared exceptionally to consider applications in respect of projects in intermediate areas and projects which safeguarded existing employment throughout the assisted areas.

Biotechnology

Renée Short (Wolverhampton North East) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what support his department was giving to research into biotechnology; and what steps were being taken to ensure that British companies utilised this research for its major industrial potential in the future.

Mr Huckfield answered that the Department of Industry, through its chemicals and minerals requirements board (CMRB), was supporting research in the biotechnology area at Warren Spring Laboratory (WSL), AERE Harwell and in industry. Its expenditure on this research in 1977-78 was £¾ million, a figure which was likely to be exceeded in 1978-79 and subsequent years. Substantial additional expenditure was incurred by industry at AERE Harwell and WSL as a result of the department's programmes and was evidence of their industrial value and relevance. The work covered such subjects as microbial leaching, waste fermentation, fractionation of biological materials and various aspects of enzyme technology. The CMRB was fully aware of the potential importance of biotechnology in general and was anxious to support more work in this area, particularly in industry but also in the form of joint projects between industrial companies and research establishments or universities.

Microprocessors: DoI study

Doug Hoyle (Nelson and Colne) asked the Secretary of State for Industry with reference to his department's study on the prospects for the United Kingdom economy in the light of the implications of new microprocessor technology, how many people were working on the study; when it began; if the study would consider and report on the potential unemployment effects; if he would give a progress report on the study; and when the interim and final reports would be made available.

Mr Huckfield replied that work on various aspects of microelectronics technology was proceeding in several departments; in his department a new division had been established to work on promoting its application. The Prime Minister announced in June that he had instructed the central policy review staff to act as the focal point for work on studying the social and employment implications of the technology, and his department had been associated with its work. CPRS presented a report which was tabled at the national economic development council on 6 December. The secretaries of state for employment, education and science and industry presented a joint paper to the NEDC meeting, representing the government's views on the employment and other implications, and the action the government was taking to promote the manufacture of microelectronic devices and equipment, and to accelerate their application throughout the economy.

Machine tool industry

William Wilson (Coventry, South West) asked the Secretary of State for Industry if he would make a statement about assistance offered to companies under the machine tool industry scheme, including Alfred Herbert.

Mr Kaufman said that there had been an excellent response to the scheme under which offers had been made to some 320 companies of all sizes. The offer to Alfred Herbert covered projects for which assistance of £4.2 million would be available as expenditure on the projects proceeds.

Trade with EEC

Mr E. Fernyhough (Jarrow) asked for a table, showing from the date that the United Kingdom joined the EEC to the latest available date, the difference in value between British exports to the EEC and imports from the EEC.

Mr Meacher replied that in accordance with established practice to refer members to published information where this was readily accessible, he would advise the questioner that information on the UK's visible trade with EEC – annually from 1970 and quarterly from 1976 – was given in table 4 of the article 'United Kingdom trade in the third quarter of 1978' which appeared in *Trade and Industry* on 8 December 1978.

Common fund

Christopher Brocklebank-Fowler (North West Norfolk) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what consideration he had given to quantifying the potential benefit to the United Kingdom if a common fund were established.

Mr Meacher said that the main benefit would lie in the greater stabilisation of commodity prices which it was hoped a common fund would make it possible to achieve through international commodity agreements. Cost benefit could be quantified on the basis of certain promises, but uncertainty about these promises produced a wider margin of error in any calculations.

Unit pricing: poultry

George Robertson (Hamilton) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection whether he had made any progress with his plans for extending unit pricing to poultry.

Mr Maclennan said that he was circulating on that day proposals to require the price per lb to be indicated for all poultry and to extend unit pricing to all fresh fish and random weight packs of fish. Comments had been requested by 19 January and he expected to lay the necessary orders shortly afterwards.

Microwave ovens

Greville Janner (Leicester West) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection whether he would seek to establish safety standards for microwave ovens.

Mr Fraser said that there was already a British Standard (BS 3456: part 2: section 2.33) dealing with the safety of microwave ovens and it had been listed in the administrative guidance issued by his department relating to the Electrical Equipment (Safety) Regulations 1975 as affording, in the department's opinion, the degree of safety required. In answer to another question on issuing regulations concerning servicing, maintenance and testing of such ovens, Mr Fraser replied that he had no power under existing consumer safety legislation to make regulations relating to the servicing or maintenance of goods of any kind or to testing associated with servicing or maintenance.

Petrochemicals

Mr T. H. H. Skeet (Bedford) asked the Secretary of State for Industry whether he had considered the recommendations of the petrochemical sector working party of the National Economic Development Council that support should be considered for investment in the United Kingdom in speciality polymers of use in the engineering industry, for example, nylon 11 and 12, polyphenylene oxide, polybutylene, terephthate, etc.

Mr Huckfield replied that the government response to the petrochemicals sector working party report would be given in the new year. All sections of the chemicals industry were eligible for financial assistance under the terms of the Industry Act 1972 and the Science and Technology Act 1965. Whether companies wished to apply for such support was a commercial decision.

Thursday, 14 December

Meriden co-operative

Kenneth Clarke (Rushcliffe) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what was the total amount of interest on government loans to the Meriden co-operative deferred so far; what the total sums of deferred interest payable by the co-operative on 30 June 1979 would be; what the amount of interest payments planned to be resumed after that date would be; and whether the government had any proposals to waive or vary the repayment of interest by the co-operative.

Mr Huckfield answered that the total amount of interest deferred so far was £835,911. The amount of interest due on 30 June 1979, unless alternative arrangements were agreed, would be £1,255,911, of which £1,047,637 would represent deferred interest. Thereafter interest would continue to be payable at the rate of 10 per cent per annum on the amount of loan outstanding, currently £4.2 million. Proposals from the co-operative for waiving or varying interest payments, if any were received, would be considered on their merits.

European regional development fund

Kenneth Clarke (Rushcliffe) asked the Secretary of State for Industry whether the government would be prepared to concede

greater community control over European regional policy in return for an enlargement of the European regional development fund.

Mr Huckfield said that the government had welcomed the increase in the size of the fund from approximately £208 million in 1976 and 1977 to approximately £375 million in 1978 as this enabled the fund to make a greater contribution to removing regional imbalances within the community. The United Kingdom government had accepted the commission's proposals for a regular and comprehensive review of regional problems and policies and the co-ordination of regional aid schemes, but both the commission and member states had recognised that member states themselves had the best knowledge of all the significant facts required to assess the needs of their regions.

Wool industry effluent costs

Richard Wainwright (Colne Valley) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what action he intended in response to representations made to him by the British Wool Confederation regarding the recent recommendations of the joint working party on wool industry effluent costs.

Mr Huckfield replied that he was examining with the Minister of State for the Environment possible ways to alleviate difficulties arising for the Yorkshire wool scouring industry from increased water and effluent treatment charges. He was also looking at the scope for modernisation and the use of new scouring techniques.

Selective investment scheme

Gordon Wilson (Dundee East) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what payments had been made under the selective investment scheme in Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland, respectively; and what were the proportions of assistance given to the relevant industries in each case.

Mr Huckfield replied that, to 30 November 1978, £2,135,000 had been paid under the selective investment scheme for 22 of the 105 projects located in England which should attract assistance of £49.8 million. No payments had yet been made for the three projects in Scotland which should attract assistance of £23.4 million and the project in Wales which should attract assistance of £0.8 million. There were no projects as yet in Northern Ireland. The distribution by sector of the payments in England was:

	Payments (£'000)	Percentage of total
Food, drink and tobacco	60	2.8
Chemicals	263	12.3
Metal manufacture	111	5.2
Mechanical engineering	60	2.8
Electrical engineering	181	8.5
Vehicles	735	34.4
Metal goods n.e.s.	100	4.7
Textiles	50	2.3
Bricks, pottery and glass	350	16.4
Other manufacturing	225	10.6
Total	2 135	100.0

Publishing takeovers

Frank Hooley (Sheffield, Heeley) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what powers he possessed to prevent the takeover of British publishing companies by foreign subversive interests.

Mr Meacher replied that all inward investment required permission under the Exchange Control Act 1947. In certain circumstances, a merger might be referable to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for investigation and report. Under part II of the Industry Act 1975, he had powers to prevent a foreign takeover where it appeared to him that there was a serious and immediate probability of a change in control of an important manufacturing (including publishing) undertaking and that the change in control would be contrary to the interests of the United Kingdom or of a substantial part of it. He also had powers to undo such a change in control if he learned of it after it had occurred. During the passage of the legislation, ministers made it clear that those powers were to be considered as reserve powers for use when other powers were inappropriate.

Advertising sheets under guise

Kevin McNamara (Kingston upon Hull Central) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection whether he would refer to the Director of Fair Trading the operations of proprietors of provincial newspapers that were publishing largely advertising sheets under the guise of newspapers; whether he would take action under the Trades Descriptions Act in respect of such publications; and whether he would seek powers to direct that such publications were either distributed free or at a reduced price based on the profits distributed.

Mr Fraser replied: no. He added that he was advised that the practice to which the questioner referred was not a false or misleading description within the meaning of the Trades Descriptions Act 1968. He was not convinced that consumers were unable to distinguish between a newspaper and an advertising sheet – and he understood that the latter were normally distributed free, though in certain instances they might bear an issue price. He recognised that, because of the current provincial newspaper strike, certain newspapers might contain a higher ratio of advertising to editorial content than was normal. But consumers should be sufficiently aware of that fact to enable them to exercise free choice in their decision to purchase or not during the period of temporary difficulty.

Trade and technical agreements

Eric Moonman (Basildon) asked the Secretary of State for Trade if he would publish the names of the countries with which HM government had a technical or trade agreement.

Mr Meacher said that the United Kingdom had agreements covering trade questions with the following countries:

Afghanistan	Iceland	Portugal
Argentina	Iran	Romania
Bolivia	Japan	Soviet Union
Burma	Liberia	Spain
Colombia	Morocco	Sweden
Costa Rica	Muscat and Oman	Switzerland
Czechoslovakia	Nepal	Tunisia
Finland	Nicaragua	Turkey
Greece	Norway	United States
Haiti	Peru	Venezuela
Hungary	Poland	Yugoslavia

There were technical agreements with:

Argentina	German Democratic Republic	Soviet Union
Bulgaria	Hungary	Venezuela
China	Poland	Yugoslavia
Cuba	Romania	
Czechoslovakia		

In addition a large number of developing countries received technical co-operation as part of the overseas aid programme. Agreements or memoranda covering terms and conditions were sometimes, but not always, concluded with these countries.

Friday, 15 December

Pay policy and export guarantees

Michael Grylls (North West Surrey) asked the Secretary of State for Trade whether, as part of the government's policy on pay sanctions, it was his intention to deny companies facilties under sections 1 or 2 or both of the Export Guarantees Act 1975: and what effect this was likely to have on exports of British goods and services during the current year.

Mr Meacher said that it was not his intention to take account of companies' observance or otherwise of the government's guidelines on pay when considering whether to exercise the discretionary powers given to him under sections 1 and 2 of the Export Guarantees and Overseas Investment Act 1978.

Foreign-owned companies

George Park (Coventry North East) asked the Secretary of State for Trade how many people were employed by foreign-owned companies in Great Britain; what was the productive capacity of these companies; and what was the proportion of United Kingdom exports manufactured by foreign-owned companies operating in Great Britain.

Mr Clinton Davis replied that the latest and only information available on employment was from the 1973 census of production, from which it was estimated that overseas-controlled UK enterprises employed about 821,500 persons in UK manufacturing industry and that the value of their manufacturing gross-output amounted to about £9,689 million. These estimates were published in table 18 of Business Monitor PA1002 1973, Report on the census of production, summary tables. No information was available on productive capacity. Overseas-controlled enterprises in both manufacturing and non-manufacturing accounted for about 24 per cent of UK exports in 1973 and 26 per cent in 1976; this information was obtained from the overseas transactions inquiries and published in Business Monitor, M 4, Overseas transactions. Separate information was not compiled for overseas-controlled enterprises in manufacturing.

Ingots, semi-finished and finished steel

George Park (Coventry North East) asked the Secretary of State for Trade if he would publish details of imports and exports over the last five years of ingots, semi-finished and finished steel.

Mr Meacher gave the following information:

Million tonnes

	Exports	Imports
1973	3.99	2.78
1974	3.15	3.82
1975	3.02	3.74
1976	3.53	4.10
1977	4.30	3.72
1978 (Jan-Oct)	3.47	3.22

Government investment in microelectronics

Gwynfor Evans (Carmarthen) asked to what extent the government had invested in microelectronics in England, Scotland and Wales, respectively.

Mr Huckfield said that assistance with the production of microelectronic components (and research and development expenditure) had been given by his department through a variety of schemes over the last decade. These schemes included the electronic components industry scheme, preproduction orders and development contracts, the microelectronics support scheme, the advanced computer technology project, and the microelectronics industry support programme. Expenditure committed to microelectronics under these schemes amounted to some £11 million. This figure did not include support made available through general regional measures or through defence procurement. A breakdown of this expenditure on a regional basis was not readily available and could only be obtained at a disproportionate cost.

Encouragement of microelectronics

Gwynfor Evans (Carmarthen) asked what was the total sum invested to date by the state in the use of microelectronics technology or for its encouragement; and how much of this total had been expended in Wales.

Mr Huckfield answered that the main government instrument to encourage industry to use microelectronics was the £55 million microprocessor application programme. To date, 11 organisations running awareness and training courses had been assisted, 82 consultancy exercises had received grants amounting to £150,000 and approval of assistance to projects amounting to £1.6 million had been given in 26 cases. No MAP assistance had yet gone to Wales but applications from companies in Wales were under consideration. Assistance to projects incorporating microelectronics applications had been given under other schemes such as PPDS and regional schemes of assistance. The amount of assistance going to Wales depended entirely on the response of Welsh industry.

R&D aerospace funding

Max Madden (Sowerby) asked how much research and development funding assistance had been given to the British aerospace industry in the last full year for which figures were available.

Mr Huckfield replied that net contributions from his department's votes to the British aerospace industry for civil research and development totalled £52 million for the year 1977-78, of which almost all was provided for British Aerospace and Rolls-Royce. A large proportion of those contributions was for Concorde development.

Incentives for petrochemical manufacturers

Mr T. H. H. Skeet (Bedford) asked the Secretary of State for Industry if he would list the incentives available to encourage investments by overseas manufacturers of petrochemicals to site their plants in the United Kingdom and compare these incentives with those obtaining in other EEC countries.

Mr Huckfield replied that overseas manufacturers investing in petrochemical plants in the UK were eligible for both the nationwide and, depending on where they were sited, the regional grants and incentives available generally to industry in the United Kingdom. While the secretary of state had no responsibility for the grants and financial incentives which might be available in other EEC countries, he had no reason to believe that those in the UK were any less effective.

European community news

Ministers hope for budget agreement

EEC budget ministers hope that agreement can be reached with the European parliament on a new maximum rate of not more than 133 million European units of account (Eua) for non-obligatory expenditure. This has to be agreed by the budget council and the European parliament before the 1979 community budget can be finally adopted.

The Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Joel Barnett, told the house of commons in a written reply on 15 December that the budget council, which met on 12 December, had recognised that this could result for the first time in the application of article 204 of the EEC treaty. This provides, subject to certain qualifications, for the introduction of a system limiting expenditure each month to one-twelfth of the budget appropriations for the preceding financial year if, at the beginning of a financial year, the budget had not yet been adopted.

Mr Barnett said that at its meeting on 5 December, the European council had maintained the position it had adopted a year previously on provision for the regional development fund, including commitments of 620 million Eua in 1979.

The chief secretary said that, during his reply to the house on 24 November on 20 November budget council, he had referred to the proposals of the European parliament for increases in commitment appropriations for the regional development fund (RDF) totalling 480 million Eua. In the absence of a qualified majority to reject the parliament's amendments, these had been accepted, although opposition to exceeding the maximum rate of increase applicable to non-obligatory expenditure had been maintained by some member states. He had also referred to the probability that the level of commitment appropriations in 1979 for the RDF, with the appropriate implications for the maximum rate, would need to be discussed at the European council.

Reporting on the 5 and 12 December budget councils Mr Barnett said the councils had discussed the implications of the decision of the European council, with particular reference to the treaty provision requiring agreement between the parliament and the council, which make up the budgetary authority, on any new maximum rate for non-obligatory expenditure in excess of a rate determined according to the procedure laid down in article 203 of the Treaty of Rome. The maximum rate so determined by the commission for 1979 was 11.4 per cent, Mr Barnett said, which corresponded to a margin of manoeuvre of 133 million Eua for the European parliament in relation to commitment appropriations.

The total of 629 million Eua of increases proposed by the parliament in respect of commitments, and accepted by the council, included 480 million Eua for the regional development fund (380 million Eua for chapter 55 of the budget and 100 million Eua for chapter 56 relating to the non-quota section of the fund), and just under 133 million Eua for non-obligatory expenditure other than in relation to the RDF.

The budget council had been informed on 12 December, the chief secretary reported, that the budget committee of the European parliament was likely to recommend to the parliament maintenance of the total provision for the RDF in the 1979 budget at the level accepted by the 20 November council. The budget council on 12 December had been unable to agree to a new maximum rate of the size believed to be envisaged by the European parliament.

Recognising the need for the parliament and council to reach agreement, if possible, on a new maximum rate, the budget council had discussed the position that the German presidency might take with the European parliament, on behalf of the council, before the latter took its final decisions on the draft 1979 budget on 14 December.

More community news

Information on European community matters and about member states can often be found in other sections of *Trade and Industry*. For this week's additional news, turn to the following pages:

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More work on MTN final package needed

A special foreign affairs council was held on 12 December to consider progress in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt) multilateral trade negotiations in Geneva.

Ministers attending agreed that further work was necessary before they were prepared to approve the outline of a final package.

The council instructed the European commission to return to the talks to press for the further concessions from the EEC's major trading partners which will be necessary before the negotiations can be brought to a successful conclusion.

The deadline for completion set at the Bonn summit was 15 December. Eight of the nine member states are now agreed in principle on trying to conclude the talks by the end of the year. The French view is that an outline package should not be drawn up until the United States' congress extends the countervailing duty waiver, due to expire on 2 January.

The commission reported that some progress had been made in the negotiations on the Gatt safeguard clause. The EEC is seeking recognition that emergency import restrictions can be taken against one or a few countries that are causing difficulties as opposed to a multilateral basis.

More money available from EIB

Under a £30 million loan made with the European Investment Bank on 14 December, firms creating jobs in development and special development areas are guaranteed against the risk of exchange losses. The loan also gives them a commercial guarantee of repayment to the EIB. The exchange risk guarantee is also made available to larger companies which contract directly with the EIB.

The agreement, signed by Minister of State for Industry, Alan Williams (see *Trade and Industry*, 15 December, page 551), will make available loans totalling £30 million to small and medium-sized firms expanding in these development areas. Companies investing in job creation projects in the manufacturing industries will be able to obtain loans from £17,000 to £2.5 million through the operating departments at fixed rates of interest. The current interest rate is 9 per cent per annum plus 1 per cent for exchange cover.

Any loans arranged under the £30 million agency agreement are repayable over seven

Alan Williams signs the EIB agency loan agreement. On his left is Mr Konstam, the bank's legal representative.

years with a grace period of two years on capital repayments. Direct loans may be for periods of up to 10 years. The EIB lends up to 50 per cent of the fixed capital costs of the project up to a maximum of about £60 million.

The lowering of the minimum size limit for loans arranged under the agency scheme from the previous level of £30,000 to £17,000 should be of particular assistance to smaller companies which, at present, may experience some difficulty in obtaining finance.

The scheme operates under section 7 of the Industry Act 1972 and in Northern Ireland under the Industries Development Act (Northern Ireland) 1966. It is administered in England by the Department of Industry, in Northern Ireland by the Department of Commerce, in Scotland by the Scottish Economic Planning Department, and in Wales by the Welsh Office Industry Department. The scheme runs until 31 December 1979 but all loans taken up during 1979 will be covered for their duration.

Loans from the European Coal and Steel Community for projects which create additional employment in areas affected by the decline of the coal and steel industries may also be considered for exchange risk cover under this scheme.

The agreement follows the allocation of £20 million under similar arrangements during 1978.

The government is making a charge of 1 per cent per annum for the exchange risk guarantee. This means that a company can at present obtain a loan effectively in sterling repayable over seven years at an effective fixed rate of interest of 10 per cent. Companies which obtain EIB or ECSC loans under these arrangements are still eligible for the full range of government incentives in the development areas.

Further information

Further information may be obtained from: Department of Industry, Regional Support and Inward Investment Division, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1; Scottish Economic Planning Department, Alhambra House, 45 Waterloo Street, Glasgow G2 6AT; Welsh Office Industry Department, Block 2, Government Buildings, Gabalfa, Cardiff CF4 4Y1; and Northern Ireland Department of Commerce, Chichester House, 64 Chichester Street, Belfast BT1 4JX.

Textile restraint talks start

Negotiations have started between the European commission and the Mediterranean textile suppliers on restraint arrangements for imports of their textiles into the community in 1979.

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Trade, Michael Meacher, said in a written parliamentary answer on 11 December that it was expected that existing arrangments with Morocco and Tunisia would be extended.

With Spain, Portugal and Greece, the aim was to renew the improved arrangements that were negotiated during 1978. Mr Meacher said that, so far, Malta and Turkey had proved unwilling to enter into negotiations. If their exports to the community in 1979 did reach disruptive levels, it might be necessary to consider again safeguard action.

The minister said he expected the council of ministers to consider the outcome of these negotiations at its 19 December meeting.

Scheme for developing countries in 1979

The council of ministers was expected to agree the generalised scheme of preferences for 1979 on 19 December. Details of the scheme will be published shortly in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*. A further article will be published in *Trade and Industry* when the *Official Journal* is published.

Background information on the working of the GSP scheme was given in *Trade and Industry*, 17 December 1976. Details of the items included in the EEC's GSP scheme and information on its operation will be published in part 11 of HM Customs and Excise Tariff, obtainable from HMSO.

The outline of the 1979 scheme is basically the same as that for 1978, with some adjustments.

The main features of the 1979 scheme are as follows:

Agricultural products

Some new products have been included in the scheme for the first time (eg hilsafish and fillets).

The preferential tariff has been reduced on a number of others and the least developed group of countries have been exempted altogether from any duties on agricultural products covered by the scheme.

Industrial products

For iron and steel, petroleum products, footwear and some other products the increases in ceilings have been frozen at the 1978 level. For a number of sensitive, semi-sensitive and special ceiling products a modest increase in quotas and ceilings has been agreed. The least-developed countries are to be exempted from the ceiling and butoir limitations on all industrial products.

The introduction of the European unit of account will mean an increase in the sterling equivalents of ceilings; special arrangements have been made to limit rises in the sterling equivalents of the UK share of the GSP tariff quotas.

Textiles

The arrangements for textiles which operated in 1978 will continue for the first six months of 1979 with a 5 per cent increase in tariff quotas a ceiling while new textiles arrangements are discussed. Arrangements for the second half of 1979 will be published in *Trade and Industry* as soon as their final form is known.

Further information

General inquiries about the 1979 GSP should be addressed to CRE 1, Department of Trade, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1 0ET, tel. 01-215 5470/3102, or General Division, Department of Trade, Room 333, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ, tel. 01-215 5491/5490.

Inquiries about what rates of duty will apply for imports outside the GSP arrangements should be made to General Division, Department of Trade, 66-74 Victoria Street, Room 310 for chapters 1-24 and 50-63, Room 301 for chapters 25-49, and Room 308 for chapters 64-99. Inquiries about origin and consignment conditions to Room 322.

Inquiries to Customs should be made to International Customs Division, Kings Beam House, Monk Lane, London EC3, tel. 01-626 1515 ext. 2570.

Copies of the *Official Journal of the European Communities* may be obtained from HMSO, PO Box 569, London SE1, tel. 01-928 6799 ext. 365.

Kawasaki (UK) fined for restrictive practice

A fine of 100,000 units of account (about £67,000) has been imposed by the European commission on Kawasaki Motors (UK), a wholly owned subsidiary of Kawasaki Heavy Industries, for preventing the export of Kawasaki motor cycles from the UK.

A private consumer, resident in Belgium, brought this matter to the commission's attention in March 1977. The consumer had sought to buy a Kawasaki motor cycle in the UK because prices for Kawasaki machines were at least 30 per cent lower in the UK than in Belgium.

The commission's investigations discovered that Kawasaki Motors (UK) had imposed an export prohibition on Kawasaki dealers since May 1975. The export prohibition was lifted in July 1977 after the commission had served a statement of objections under article 15 (6) of regulation 17 as an interim measure.

The considerable price differences referred to by the private consumer were confirmed by the commission's investigations, which found that recommended retail prices in other EEC states were as much as 50 per cent higher than those in the UK. In particular, it was found that the wholesale price charged to dealers in Germany by Kawasaki Motoren GmbH, also a wholly owned subsidiary of Kawasaki Heavy Industries, was on average 25 per cent higher than the Kawasaki Motors' (UK) recommended retail price to private customers in the UK.

The export prohibition was imposed to protect the high price levels in other member states, especially the Federal Republic of Germany, from competition from dealers in the UK in this way denying those dealers an opportunity to meet demand from other countries of the community.

EMS: how it should work

EEC heads of government are determined to consolidate all the elements making up the European monetary system (EMS) into a final system, no later than two years after the scheme gets underway on 1 January.

These elements include the creation of a European monetary fund, and the full utilisation of the European currency unit (Ecu) as a reserve asset and a means of settlement.

'The European monetary system', a white paper presented to parliament this month, published the resolution adopted by the European council on 5 December setting up the EMS.

Italy decided on 12 December to join in the EMS with France and the five community members already in the snake. Eire announced its decision to join the EMS on 15 December.

The Ecu and its functions

The Ecu will be at the centre of the EMS. It will be identical with the value of the European unit of account (Eua) at the outset of the system.

It will be used as the denominator (*numéraire*) for the exchange rate mechanism, as the basis for a divergence indicator, as the denominator for operations in both the intervention and the credit mechanism, and as a means of settlement between monetary authorities of the European community.

The weights of currencies in the Ecu will be re-examined and, if necessary, revised within six months of the system coming into force and every five years after, or on request, if the weight of any currency has changed by 25 per cent.

Revisions have to be mutually accepted; they will, by themselves, not modify the external value of the Ecu, and will be made in line with underlying economic criteria.

Credit mechanisms

The existing credit mechanisms with their present rules of application will be maintained for the initial phase of the EMS. They will be consolidated into a single fund in the final phase of the EMS.

The credit mechanisms will be extended to an amount of 25 billion Ecu of effectively available credit. The distribution of this amount will be: short-term monetary support of 14 billion Ecu; medium-term financial assistance of 11 billion Ecu.

The short-term monetary support will be extended for another three months on the same conditions as the first extension.

The increase of the medium-term financial assistance will be completed by 30 June 1979. In the meantime, countries which still need national legislation are expected to make their extended medium-term quotas available by an interim financing agreement of the central banks concerned.

Third countries and international organisations

The durability of EMS and its international implications require co-ordination of exchange rate policies vis-á-vis third countries and, as far as possible, a concertation with the monetary authorities of those countries.

European countries with particularly close economic and financial ties with the European community may take part in the exchange rate and intervention mechanism.

Participation will be based upon agreements between central banks; these agreements will be communicated to the council and the European commission.

EMS is, and will remain, fully compatible with the relevant articles of the IMF agreement.

Further procedure

The European council asked the finance council to consider and take a decision on 18 December on the following commission proposals:

☐ Council regulation modifying the unit of account used by the European fund of monetary co-operation (EMCF), which introduces the Ecu in the operations of EMCF and defines its compositions;

☐ Council regulation permitting the EMCF to receive monetary reserves and to issue Ecus to the monetary authorities of the member states which may use them as a means of settlement;

☐ Council regulation on the impact of the European monetary system on the common agricultural policy. The European council considers that the introduction of the EMS should not of itself result in any change in the situation obtaining prior to 1 January 1979 regarding the expression in national currencies of agricultural prices, monetary compensatory amounts and all other amounts fixed for the purposes of the common agricultural policy.

The European council stresses the importance of avoiding the creation of permanent monetary compensatory amounts and progressively reducing present Mcas to re-establish the unity of prices of the common agricultural policy, giving also due consideration to price policy.

Exchange rate and intervention mechanism

Each currency will have an Ecu-related central rate. These central rates will be used to establish a grid of bilateral exchange rates.

Around these exchange rates, fluctuation margins of ± 2.25 per cent will be established. European community countries with presently floating currencies may opt for wider margins up to ± 6 per cent at the outset of EMS; these margins should be gradually reduced as soon as economic conditions permit.

Any member state not participating in the exchange rate mechanism at the outset may participate at a later date.

Adjustments of central rates will be subject to mutual agreement by a common procedure which will comprise all countries participating in the exchange rate mechanism and the commission. There will be reciprocal consultation in the community framework about important decisions concerning exchange rate policy between countries participating and any country not participating in the system. In principle, interventions will be made in participating currencies. Intervention in participating currencies is compulsory when the intervention points defined by the fluctuation margins are reached.

An Ecu basket formula will be used as an indicator to detect divergences between community currencies. A 'threshold of divergence' will be fixed at 75 per cent of the maximum spread of divergence for each currency. It will be calculated in such a way as to eliminate the influence of weight on the probability to reach the threshold.

When a currency crosses its 'threshold of divergence', the authorities concerned should correct this situation by diversified intervention, measures of domestic monetary policy, changes in central rates, and other measures of economic policy.

In case such measures, because of special circumstances, are not taken, the reasons for this shall be given to the other authorities, especially in the 'concertation between central banks'. Consultations will, if necessary, then take place in the appropriate community bodies, including the council of ministers.

After six months, these provisions shall be reviewed in the light of experience. At that date, the questions regarding imbalances accumulated by divergent creditor or debtor countries will be studied as well.

A very-short-term facility of an unlimited amount will be established. Settlements will be made 45 days after the end of the month of intervention with the possibility of prolongation for another three months for amounts limited to the size of debtor quotas in the short-term monetary support.

An initial supply of Ecus will be provided by EMCF against the deposit of 20 per cent of gold and 20 per cent of dollar reserves, currently held by central banks, to serve as a means of settlement.

This operation will take the form of specified, revolving swap arrangements. By periodical review, and by an appropriate procedure, each central bank will maintain a deposit of at least 20 per cent of these reserves with EMCF. A member state not participating in the exchange-rate mechanism may participate in this initial operation on the basis described above.

Measures to strengthen the economies of the less prosperous member states of the European monetary system

The heads of EEC governments stressed the most important concern should be to enhance the convergence of economic policies towards greater stability, and requested that finance and economic ministers should strengthen procedures for co-ordination.

Steps had to be taken to strengthen the economic potential of the less prosperous countries of the community – primarily the responsibility of the member states concerned. Community measures can and should serve a supporting role.

The European council agreed that in the context of the European monetary system, the following measures in favour of the less prosperous member states effectively and fully participating in the exchange rate and intervention mechanisms.

Community institutions should, by using the new financial instrument and the European Investment Bank, make available for a period of five years loans of up to 1000 million Eua per year to these countries on special conditions.

The commission should submit a proposal to provide interest rate subsidies of 3 per cent for these loans, with the total cost of this measure, divided into annual tranches of 200 mil-

lion Eua each over a period of five years, not exceeding 1000 million Eua.

Any less prosperous member country which subsequently effectively and fully participates in the mechanisms will have the right of access to this facility, within the financial limits mentioned above. Member states not participating effectively and fully in the mechanisms will not contribute to the financing of the scheme.

Funds provided in this way are to be concentrated on the financing of selected infrastructure projects and programmes, with the understanding that any direct or indirect distortion of the competitive position of specific industries within member states will have to be avoided.

Finance ministers should take a decision on the above-mentioned proposals in time so that the relevant measures can become effective on 1 April 1979 at the latest. There should be a review at the end of the initial phase of the EMS.

The commission should study the relationship between greater convergence in economic performance of the member states and the use of community instruments, in particular the funds which aim at reducing structural imbalances. The results of these studies will be discussed at the next European council.

Common customs tariff for 1979

A revised version of the common customs tariff (CCT) is to come into force on 1 January.

The main changes are:

☐ Introduction in the textiles sector of a large number of additional tariff sub-headings. To provide for the correct and uniform application of the bilateral agreements between the community and low-cost suppliers of textiles and clothing, the Nimexe product descriptions previously used for collecting statistics on these goods have been introduced as new tariff sub-headings. These new sub-headings do not however affect the rates of customs duty.

☐ Adoption of the European unit of account (Eua) in place of the existing unit of account (ua). A few products are subject to duties expressed in uas and some products are classified according to their value expressed in uas. The existing ua used for customs purposes has a value of 0.88867088 grams of fine gold and the exchange rates for converting to national currencies correspond to the par values communicated to the International Monetary Fund – for instance for the UK, £1 = 2.4 ua. Because of changes in the international monetary system, the incidence of the specific customs duties had become increasingly less uniform when converted into the national currencies of the member states. To restore the situation, the ua will be replaced by the Eua. However, in the case of cheese (ex tariff heading 04.04) and wines (tariff 22.05 C) the ua will continue to be used and will still be converted into national currencies on the basis of the agricultural representative rate. The conversion rates applicable each 1 January 1979 will be those calculated for the first working day in the previous October. For the UK, the conversion rate operative from 1 January 1979 will be 1 Eua = £0.669415.

In the case of all goods of chapter 22 except wines (heading 22.05), unmanufactured tobacco (24.01), ceramic products (chapter 69), insulators (85.25 A) and watches (91.01), the changeover will be made in two stages. On 1 January 1979, the difference between the existing conversion rate and the new one will be halved and the final move will be made on 1 January 1980. So on 1 January, the conversion rate for these products in the UK will be 1 Eua=£0.543041.

☐ The final reduction in duty to 8 per cent for kraft paper (heading 58.01 CII) stems from a community undertaking in the negotiations in the Gatt following the enlargement of the community.

☐ In addition there are some minor changes to the nomenclature which clarify and align the texts of the various language versions of the CCT.

The CCT, published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* L335 1 December 1978, is available from HMSO, £6.60.

Consumer protection conference planned

John Braun, former head of the EEC's consumer protection division, and now a consultant in European and consumer affairs, will be among the speakers at a conference called 'Focus on new developments in consumer protection' at the Hilton Hotel, London, on 24 January.

The event is being organised by European Study Conferences, of Uppingham, Leicestershire. The fee is £75 excluding VAT.

The objects of the conference are to keep companies up to date with regulations passed in recent years to protect the consumer, and also to help them plan for likely changes in the coming year.

Further information is available from Helen Duerden on 057-282 2711.

New legislation

The legislation listed below has been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* as indicated against each item. The *Official Journal* is published in English and copies should be obtained from HMSO. Information about the items listed, in so far as other member states' requirements are concerned, is available to British exporters from Department of Trade, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU, tel. 01-248 5757 ext. 7174/482/408.

Common agricultural policy

The texts of the following regulations which affect the various agricultural sectors in the EEC have been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

Oils, fats and oilseeds. Regulations (EEC) 2749/78 on trade in oils and fats between the community and Greece (*Official Journal* L331, 28 November 1978).

Regulation (EEC) 2750/78 on the standard amount for unprocessed olive oil produced entirely in Greece and transported direct from that country into the community. (*Official Journal* L331, 28 November 1978).

Regulation (EEC) 2751/78 laying down general rules for fixing the import levy on olive oil by tender (*Official Journal* L331, 28 November 1978).

Regulation (EEC) 2752/78 laying down special measures in respect of olive oil producer organisations for the 1978/79 marketing year (*Official Journal* L331, 28 November 1978).

Regulation (EEC) 2753/78 laying down general rules in respect of production aid for olive oil for the 1978/79 marketing year (*Official Journal* L331, 28 November 1978).

Regulation (EEC) 2754/78 on intervention in the olive oil sector (*Official Journal* L331, 28 November 1978).

Animal feedingstuffs. Regulation (EEC) 2771/78 amending article 3(1)(e) of regulation (EEC) 1528/78 laying down detailed rules for the application of the system of aid for dried fodder to read: '(e) products delivered cif Regensburg, they shall not be adjusted'. (*Official Journal* L332, 29 November 1978).

Milk and milk products. Regulation (EEC) 2823/78 amending annex III to regulation (EEC) 2054/76. In the first sentence of section 1 of annex III to regulation (EEC) 2054/76, the word 'deodorized' is replaced by 'non-deodorized' (*Official Journal* L334, 1 December 1978).

Processed fruit and vegetables. Regulation (EEC) 2836/78 amending article 7 of regulation (EEC) 1530/78 laying down rules for the application of the system of aid in respect of certain products processed from fruit and vegetables (*Official Journal* L336, 2 December 1978).

Sugar. Regulation (EEC) 2889/78 fixing the amount of the production levy for the 1977/78 sugar marketing year (*Official Journal* L344, 8 December 1978).

Wine. Regulation (EEC) 2776/78 amending for the second time regulation (EEC) 1162/76 on measures designed to adjust wine-growing potential to market requirements (*Official Journal* L333, 30 November 1978).

Regulation (EEC) 2777/78 fixing the activating prices for table wines for the period 16 December 1978 to 15 December 1979 (*Official Journal* L333, 30 November 1978).

Regulation (EEC) 2819/78 amending annex III to regulation (EEC) 1393/76 laying down detailed rules for the importation of products in the wine-growing sector originating in certain third countries (*Official Journal* L334, 1 December 1978).

Regulation (EEC) 2820/78 fixing certain reference prices for the period 16 December 1978 to 15 December 1979 in the wine sector. (*Official Journal* L334, 1 December 1978).

Regulation (EEC) 2822/78 establishing the list of authorised vine varieties which may be used for new plantings and replantings under regulation (EEC) 1162/76 and establishing other detailed rules for the application of that regulation (*Official Journal* L334, 1 December 1978).

Regulation (EEC) 2887/78 fixing the free-at-frontier reference prices applicable to wine imports from 16 December 1978 (*Official Journal* L344, 8 December 1978).

Regulation (EEC) 2888/78 amending the annex to regulation (EEC) 2005/70 on the classification of vine varieties (*Official Journal* L344, 8 December 1978).

Harmonisation of legislation

Motor vehicles. The *Official Journal* L325, 20 November 1978 contains the text of directive 78/932/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the member states relating to head restraints of seats of motor vehicles.

Further information: Department of Industry, Vehicle Division, Ashdown House, 123 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6RB, tel. 01-212 0288.

Agricultural and forestry tractors. The *Official Journal* L325, 20 November 1978, contains the text of directive 78/933/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the member states relating to the installation of lighting and light-signalling devices on wheeled agricultural and forestry tractors.

Further information: Department of Transport, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 3EB, tel. 01-212 3171. Copies of *Official Journal* L325, may be obtained from HMSO, price £1.20.

Imports from non-member states

The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L340, 6 December 1978, contains the texts of the following decisions which authorise the relevant member states to refuse entry to the specified goods.

Decision 78/980/EEC authorising France not to apply community treatment to bed linen, table linen, toilet linen and kitchen linen, falling within heading ex 62.02 of the common customs tariff, originating in Czechoslovakia and in free circulation in the other member states.

Decision 78/989/EEC authorising France not to apply community treatment to natural honey, falling within heading 04.06 of the common customs tariff, originating in Mexico and Argentina and in free circulation in the other member states.

The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L344, 8 December 1978, contains the texts of the following decisions which authorise the relevant member states to refuse entry to the specified goods.

Decision 78/996/EEC authorising the United Kingdom not to apply community treatment to tents, falling within heading ex 62.04 of the common customs tariff (Nimexe codes 62.04-23, 73), originating in South Korea and in free circulation in the other member states.

Decision 78/999/EEC authorising Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands not to apply community treatment to men's and boys' shirts, woven, of wool, of cotton or of man-made textile fibres, falling with heading ex 61.03 of the common customs tariff (Nimexe codes 61.03-11, 15, 19), originating in Romania and in free circulation in the other member states.

Decision 78/1000/EEC authorising Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands not to apply community treatment to knitted or crocheted trousers (except shorts), other than babies', of wool, of cotton or of man-made textile fibres, falling within subheading ex 60.05 All of the common customs tariff (Nimexe codes 60.05-61, 62, 64), originating in Taiwan and in free circulation in the other member states.

Overseas trade news

ECGD raises premium rates . . .

Premium rates are being raised by the Export Credits Guarantee Department from April 1979. This should increase its total premium income by about 10 per cent. The last premium increase was in April 1977: the present is only the third increase since 1945.

ECGD is required to maintain reserves proportional to its liabilities. In recent years, interest on these reserves has contributed about one-third of the department's income, leaving exporters to contribute two-thirds through their premiums, but inflation has been eroding the real value of these reserves.

The changes affect all types of business covered by ECGD. For comprehensive cover on UK exports sold on short-term credit (up to six months), premiums will rise by between 3p and 9p per £100 insured, with the aim of raising average premium income from about 29p at present to about 32p per £100. This is the approximate level aimed at in the 1977 increase, but it was not then achieved because of the difficulties of calculating the precise effect of increases in this area of ECGD's business (about £12,000 million a year). The new average rate is still cheaper than it was at any time before 1964.

For ECGD business on terms of two years or more, handled case by case, ECGD is streamlining its premium system to simplify procedures for exporters, but the aim is to bring in about 5 per cent more income overall.

. . . and extends cost escalation scheme

Parliamentary approval is to be sought for an extension for a further year from March 1979 of the powers under which the Export Credits Guarantee Department operates its cost escalation scheme for export contracts trade secretary John Smith announced in a written parliamentary answer on 14 December.

The scheme applies to export contracts worth £2 million or more with a manufacturing period of two years or more.

Under section 5 of the Export Guarantees and Overseas Investment Act 1978, ECGD is empowered to give a measure of cover against certain UK cost increases for capital goods contracts. The powers to operate the scheme under the act last until 26 March 1979; they may be extended by order by not more than one year at a time.

Since the introduction of the scheme in 1975, 11 guarantees have been issued for exports with a total contract value of £246 million. A further eight cases involving contracts worth some £468 million are in active negotiation.

Export expert 1978

At work, Phillip Edwards, 41, of Carless Solvents, Britain's 1978 Export Expert. He received the trophy and cheque from Lord Limerick, patron of Export United and a BOTB member. Mr Edwards won the national final of the Export Expert competition, which was held in Export House, London, on 15 December. The competition was organised by the Institute of Export on behalf of the sponsors of Export United.

Pavilion for Plovdiv fair

Bulgaria's exhibition high point is the Plovdiv international trade fair. The Department of Trade will be organising a British pavilion at the thirty-fifth annual fair, to be held between 3 to 10 September 1979.

This will give British companies the opportunity to exhibit their products to a wide Bulgarian audience, as well as demonstrating their capabilities to representatives of trading organisations from other CMEA markets.

The most promising areas for UK exporters would seem to be in the fields of forge and foundry facilities; material handling and automotive equipment; electrical productions; chemical plant; agricultural machinery and equipment.

Further details can be obtained from Howard Giles, Fairs and Promotions Branch, Room 111, Hillgate House, 26 Old Bailey, London EC4M 7HU, tel. 01-248 5757 ext. 7321.

Export workshop for Thames Valley firms

A half-day workshop on profitable exporting has been arranged for local firms by the Thames Valley committee for Export United.

It will be held at the Lorch Foundation, Lane End, near High Wycombe, on 2 March. The Thames Valley committee has members in Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire.

Jack Sherman, committee secretary said that the workshop would develop practical aspects of exporting. Delegates will take part in the exercises on successive stages and successful conclusion of export transactions.

Particular requirements of three or four countries will be spotlighted and discussed in great detail. Other items will include market and agency selection, inquiry and quotation, including banking facilities, government services, shipment, and finalising a profitable order.

Firms interested in attending are asked to write to Jack Sherman, secretary, Thames Valley Committee for Export United, c/o Abrasive Specialities Ltd, 17 London Road, Ascot, Berkshire SL5 7EW.

Hints to business men booklets

Revised editions of the booklets on Cuba, Cyprus, India, USSR and Zambia have been issued.

British exporters can order these booklets by post, accompanied by the remittance, from the Department of Trade, Publications Sales Unit, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU, at £1 per copy, plus postage and packing (one copy 20p, two to four copies 30p, five to seven copies 40p, more than seven post free).

Copies may also be purchased by personal callers at Export House and at the Offices of the Department of Industry at Newcastle upon Tyne, Cockermouth, Manchester, Leeds, Nottingham, Birmingham, Bristol; from the Scottish and Welsh Offices and from the Department of Commerce, Belfast.

Licensing exports of non-alloy ferrous scrap to countries outside the European community

Existing arrangements for the issue of licences for the export of non-alloy ferrous scrap to countries outside the European community are to be revised. The limit on high-grade scrap exports as a proportion of low-grade and fragmentised scrap will be reduced from 20 per cent to 15 per cent.

The revised arrangements, which are intended to operate in the first instance to 31 March, 1979, but which will be subject to review in the light of experience, are as follows.

Applications for licences to export low-grade and fragmentised scrap will be considered from all exporters providing evidence of firm orders, but there will be a limit of 15 per cent for high-grade scrap. The following types are treated as low-grade or fragmentised scrap, and high-grade scrap covers all other non-alloy ferrous scrap.

1 Compressed baled material, other than compressed unused sheet and sheet cuttings
2 Loose used wrought material containing 90 per cent or more, by weight, of a material of a thickness not exceeding 3mm
3 Turnings and borings
4 Fragmentised used wrought material.

If there is evidence that licences for low-grade and fragmentised scrap are being requested merely as a means of securing high-grade licences, and thus circumventing the objective of reducing levels of high-grade scrap exports, then it may be necessary to restrict further the high-grade element of individual licence applications.

Licences will be valid for a period of not more than two months and will be issued according to the arrangements outlined above.

Applications should be made to the Department of Trade, Export Licensing Branch. These should give details of the intended shipments and supporting documentary evidence (in English) of the order. Telex messages giving full details will be accepted but must be followed within not more than two weeks thereafter by written confirmation of the order.

Exporters will be required to report to the Department of Industry, Iron and Steel Division, Room 821, Ashdown House, 123 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6RB, but not later than the sixth day of each month, exports made against such licences in the preceding calendar month.

Trade enquiries should be addressed to the Department of Trade, Export Licensing Branch, Sanctuary Buildings, 16/20 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3DB.

Arabic course in the Midlands

A course on 'Understanding the Arabs', designed to give Middle-East-bound executives a better chance of clinching sales, is being organised by the West Midlands Productivity Association in January and February 1979.

Part of the course, conducted by Bernard Butler, who worked in the Middle East for 14 years, will explain how not to kill the sale by making an elementary social faux pas which will offend potential customers.

Delegates will also learn a colloquial Arabic vocabulary of over 250 words which will enable them to engage in simple conversation in 20 countries from Morocco to the Gulf.

Further details can be obtained from the West Midlands Productivity Association, 75 Harborne Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 3DW, tel. 021-454 5778.

Bernard Butler now also gives residential two- and five-day courses at a Worcester hotel. These have been organised, Mr Butler says, at the suggestion of previous participants who considered that they would have gained even more from the courses if they did not have to travel to and fro each day.

Details of these courses can be obtained from Bernard Butler, Ribbesford House, Bewdley, Worcester DY12 2TG, tel. Bewdley 402302.

London chamber's Romanian mission brings results

A £150,000 contract in chemicals, plus a framework agreement for selling certain types of Romanian machine tools in the UK, were included in a London Chamber of Commerce and Industry mission to Romania.

The chemical contract has been won by the Basingstoke company, Steetley Chemicals, while Berox Machine Tool Company has agreed with Masinexportimport to sell particular Romanian machine tools in the UK in return for increased exports to Romania, and to deal with counterpurchase obligations within a framework rather than on individual contract basis.

In addition to these deals, several other mission members reported serious interest in new business – and these could result in substantial Romanian orders being made in the next few weeks.

Disclosure of import information

Consideration is being given, under section 3 of the Finance Act 1967, to the disclosure of information on the following goods:

SITC(r2)	Trade description	Code no.
728.42	Machines and mechanical appliances for the rubber and artificial plastic materials industries n.e.s.–	
	Injection moulding machines–	
	For boot and shoe components	8459 5710
	Other	8459 5799

The government is consulting the Association of British Chambers of Commerce, 6-14 Dean Farrar Street, London SW1H 0DX, on these proposals, and the association will take into account any view received from importers by 19 January 1979.

BOTB shows at export exhibition

Stuart Collins of the British Overseas Trade Board talks to councillor Gordon Brown, Mayor of Woking (left), during the mayor's visit to the BOTB stand, at the Surrey and Hants Export Association's second export exhibition at Woking on 5 December.

Inquiries may be addressed to Economics and Statistics Division 5 Branch B2, Department of Industry, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1T 0EH, tel. 01-215 5770.

Seminar on transfer of technology to China

A seminar on 'The transfer of British technology to China' is being organised by the 48 Group on 17 January 1979.

The greater part of the seminar will be devoted to case studies where the various forms of technical co-operations, and licensing contracts will be examined.

Further details can be obtained from Roland Berger, the 48 Group, 25 Bedford Row, London WC1 4HD, tel. 01-405 2963.

S. American agriculture seminar

In conjunction with the Latin America trade advisory group at Canning House, the British Agricultural Export Council (BAEC) is holding a one-day seminar on 'Agriculture in South America, at the Café Royal on 11 January 1979.

The aim of the seminar, to be chaired by Wally Johnstone, chairman of BAEC, will be to tell delegates of the opportunities for the export of goods and services to agriculture and the agro-industry.

Further details can be obtained from BAEC, 35 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8QN.

Tariff quotas 1979: paper and board and certain printed products originating in Efta countries (and Finland)

Under agreements between the European Economic Community and the countries concerned, the UK may open for each year from 1974 to 1983 (inclusive) zero-duty tariff quotas for imports of certain paper and printed products that fall within chapters 48 and 49 of the common customs tariff, and originate in Austria, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, and Switzerland. This notice sets out the proposed quota levels for 1979 in the light of discussions with those concerned. The proposals can only be implemented for the UK by making a parliamentary order which has been laid before the house of commons. In a few cases, the quota levels include small amounts for which the Channels Islands legislate separately. Details of the quotas will later be published in part 11 of the customs tariff.

The main tariff headings of the proposed quotas, their description and the amounts for 1979 are set out in the tables below. For the convenience of importers the relevant tariff and trade (t/t) numbers are shown against the quotas description. It is also proposed that the lightweight coated sub-quotas (serial no. 7165 Sweden, and 7149 Finland) should be increased substantially, ie above the permitted maxima. This will require protocol 1 of the free trade agreements to be amended and the UK's proposals will be submitted to the commission for EEC approval. Subject to the necessary amendments to protocol 1 to the agreements being effected, a further order will be laid before the house seeking the addition of 4926 tonnes (Sweden) and 7571 tonnes (Finland) to the above mentioned sub-quotas. A further notice will appear during 1979 listing any changes agreed.

To be eligible for these quotas, goods must be covered by a movement certificate on form EUR1. For goods from Austria, Finland, Norway and Sweden, the EUR1 must be endorsed 'Article 25(1) satisfied'.

Qualifying goods, as in 1978, will be set off against the quotas in the order in which any importer enters them with customs for home use and claims relief from duty (the 'greyhound system'). Advice on administration of quotas and how to claim such tariff quota relief is given in customs notice 771 of March 1973 and amendments entitled 'Imported goods: tariff quotas'. Inquiries should be directed to any office of HM Customs and Excise.

Inquiries about the normal rate of duty for imports outside the quotas should be addressed in writing to General Division, Branch 2, Department of Trade, Room 341, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ.

Inquiries about how the quotas may be administered should be addressed in writing to General Division, Branch 2, Room 333, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ.

Inquiries about the scope and levels of individual quotas for chapter 48 products should be addressed in writing to PTM Branch, Department of Industry, Room 701, Ashdown House, 123 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6RB.

Inquiries concerning chapter 49 should be addressed to PTFD Division, Department of Trade, Room 417, Sanctuary Buildings, 16-20 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3DB.

CCT heading and description	Quota serial no.	1979 quota levels (metric tonnes)	Corresponding 1979 tariff/trade code no.
Sweden			
Chapter 48			
Paper and paperboard:			
Articles of paper pulp of paper or of paperboard			
48.01 Paper and paperboard (including cellulose wadding) machine made in rolls or sheets:			
C Kraft paper and kraft board:			
II Other:			
Kraft liner			
	1898	123 260 tonnes (of which not more than 105 620 tonnes weighing less than 225 g/m²)	4801.1400 4801.1500 4801.2100 4801.2700
	1871	(of which not more than 17 640 tonnes weighing 225 g/m² or more)	4801.3110 4801.3150
Kraft paper for large capacity sacks.	1936	125 000 tonnes	4801.1600 4801.2300 4801.2800
All goods of this subheading other than those covered by the two preceding entries.	2001	77 250 tonnes (of which not more than 12 250 tonnes bleached and semi-bleached)	4801.1200 4801.1310 4801.2510 4801.2551 4801.2559 4801.2610 4801.2690 4801.2911 4801.2919 4801.2991 4801.2999 4801.3310
	2028	(of which not more than 65 000 tonnes unbleached)	4801.0800 4801.0900 4801.1100 4801.1350 4801.1710 4801.1790 4801.1910 4801.1990 4801.3350
ex F other			
Bible paper, manifold (thin typing) paper; printing paper and writing paper weighing less than 225 g/m² and not containing mechanical woodpulp or in which mechanical woodpulp does not represent more than 5 per cent.	2095	14 000 tonnes	4801.5800 4801.6100 4801.6200 4801.6610 4801.6699
Printing paper and writing paper weighing less than 225 g/m² and containing more than 5 per cent of mechanical woodpulp.	2141 *	61 500 tonnes	4801.6400 4801.6900
Semi-chemical fluting paper weighing less than 225 g/m².	2184	41 000 tonnes	4801.7500
Sulphite wrapping and packaging paper weighing less than 225 g/m².	2214	19 000 tonnes	4801.7100 4801.7300
All goods of this subheading weighing less than 225 g/m² other than cellulose wadding, webs of cellulose fibres (soft tissues) and than paper covered by the four previous entries		26 500 tonnes	
	2435	(of which not more than 6 500 tonnes test liner paper)	4801.8210 4801.8450
	2451	(of which not more than 2 000 tonnes base paper for sensitising with solutions other than silver salts)	4801.5250 4801.5400
	2478	(of which not more than 9 000 tonnes wallpaper base)	4801.5300
	2486	(of which not more than 9 000 tonnes other papers)	4801.4100 4801.4310 4801.4510 4801.5210 4801.5500 4801.5600 4801.7700 4801.8291 4801.8299 4801.8491 4801.9310 4801.9399
All goods of this subheading weighing 225 g/m² or more		35 700 tonnes	
	2311	(of which not more than 8 400 tonnes test liner-board)	4801.8440
	2338	(of which not more than 17 500 tones folding box-board)	4801.8411 4801.8419 4801.8421 4801.8429
	2346	(of which not more than 300 tonnes electrical insulating press-board (Presspahn))	4801.9100
	2354	(of which not more than 9 500 tonnes other paper board)	4801.4399 4801.4550 4801.8460 4801.8495 4801.8600 4801.8800 4801.9500 4801.9710 4801.9799
48.03 Parchment or greaseproof paper and paperboard and glazed transparent paper in rolls or sheets	2532	8 500 tonnes	4803.1000 4803.3000 4803.5000 4803.6000 4803.8010 4803.8099

* These quotas have been increased. The amounts of the increases are shown in the table on page 636.

CCT heading	and description	Quota serial no.	1979 quota levels (metric tonnes)	Corresponding 1979 tariff/trade code no.				
48.04	Composite paper or paperboard (made by sticking flat layers together with an adhesive) not surface coated or impregnated whether or not internally reinforced in rolls or sheets	2567 *	688 tonnes	4804.1000 4804.5099	4804.2100 4804.6000	4804.2500 4804.7000	4804.4000 4804.8000	4804.5010
48.05	Paper and paperboard corrugated (with or without flat surface sheets) creped, crinkled, embossed or perforated, in rolls or sheets: b Other		15 218 tonnes					
		2974	(of which not more than 2 500 tonnes kraft paper weighing less than 225 g/m²)	4805.2100	4805.2900	4805.8010		
		2583 *	(of which not more than 12 718 tonnes other than previous entry)	4805.3000	4805.5000	4805.8099		
48.07	Paper and paperboard impregnated, coated surface – coloured, surface-decorated or printed (not being merely ruled, lined or squared and not constituting printed matter within chapter 49) in rolls or sheets: C Other:		12 058 tonnes					
	Coated printing paper weighing less than 225 g/m²	7165 *	(of which not more than 7 138 tonnes mechanical weighing not more than 65 g/m²)	4807.5712	4807.5922	4807.5932		
		7173	(of which not more than 1 500 tonnes other mechanical)	4807.5718	4807.5928	4807.5938		
		2648	(of which not more than 3 420 tonnes other than mechanical)	4807.5750	4807.5951	4807.5959		
	Other than above		38 063 tonnes					
		2729	(of which not more than 7 615 tonnes folding boxboard)	4807.6511	4807.6519	4807.6521	4807.6529	
		2737	(of which not more than 30 448 tonnes other than folding boxboard)	4807.5500 4807.6599 4807.8111 4807.9110	4807.5600 4807.6610 4807.8119 4807.9199	4807.5800 4807.6699 4807.8150 4807.9700	4807.5980 4807.6800 4807.8199 4807.9900	4807.6400 4807.7000 4807.8500
48.15	Other paper and paperboard cut to size or shape: b Other	2834 *	3 448 tonnes	4815.1000 4815.5010 4815.9910	4815.2100 4815.5099 4815.9999	4815.2900 4815.6100	4815.3000 4815.6500	4815.4000 4815.9500
48.16 A	Boxes, bags and other packing containers of paper or paperboard	2842 *	581 tonnes	4816.1000	4816.9100	4816.9500	4816.9600	4816.9800
48.21 B, C and D	Other articles of paper, paper pulp, paperboard, or cellulose wadding excluding 48.21 A	2885 *	1 292 tonnes	4821.1100 4821.3100 4821,6000	4821.1300 4821.3300 4821.7000	4821.1500 4821.3700 4821.9900	4821.2100 4821.4000	4821.2500 4821.5000
Chapter 48	Other products of chapter 48, excluding products of subheading no. 48.01 A.	2982	3 500 tonnes	see below				
	4801.0500 4801.0600 4801.3500 4801.3700 4801.4700 4801.4900 4805.1000 4807.1000 4807.3000 4808.0000 4810.1000 4810.9000 4811.2100 4811.2900 4811.4000 4812.0000 4813.1000 4813.3000 4813.5000 4813.9000 4814.1000 4814.3000 4814.9000 4815.0510 4815.0599 4816.9900 4818.1000 4818.2100 4818.2900 4818.3000 4818.4000 4818.5000 4818.6100 4818.6900 4818.8010 4818.8099 4819.0000 4820.1000 4820.9000 4821.0100							

Note: Swedish DFQ no. 2141: Newsprint paper for any reason ineligible for the EEC quota bearing T/T code numbers 4801.6512, 4801.6514 or 4801.6515, is also admissable to this quota.

Finland

CCT heading	and description	Quota serial no.	1979 quota levels (metric tonnes)	Corresponding 1979 tariff/trade code no.				
Chapter 48	Paper and paper-board: articles of paper pulp, of paper and paperboard:							
48.01	(including cellulose wadding), machine made in rolls or sheets: C Kraft paper and kraft board: II. Other							
	Kraft liner.	1847	59 175 tonnes	4801.1400 4801.3150	4801.1500	4801.2100	4801.2700	4801.3110
	Kraft paper for large capacity sacks.	1901	25 100 tonnes	4801.1600	4801.2300	4801.2800		
	Other		30 610 tonnes					
		1952	(of which not more than 1 750 tonnes, bleached and semi-bleached)	4801.1200 4801.2610 4801.2999	4801.1310 4801.2690 4801.3310	4801.2510 4801.2911	4801.2551 4801.2919	4801.2559 4801.2991
		1979	(of which not more than 28 860 tonnes unbleached)	4801.0800 4807.1790	4801.0900 4801.1910	4801.1100 4801.1990	4801.1350 4801.3350	4801.1710
	ex F other:							
	Bible paper, manifold (thin typing) paper; printing paper and writing paper weighing less than 225 g/m² and not containing mechanical woodpulp or in which mechanical woodpulp does not represent more than 5 per cent.	2079	15 250 tonnes	4801.5800	4801.6100	4801.6200	4801.6610	4801.6699
	Printing paper and writing paper weighing less than 225 g/m² and containing more than 5 per cent of mechanical woodpulp.	2125 *	200 500 tonnes	4801.6400	4801.6900			
	Semi-chemical fluting paper weighing less than 225 g/m².	2168	47 840 tonnes	4801.7500				
	Sulphite wrapping and packaging paper weighing less than 225 g/m².	2192	6 000 tonnes	4801.7100	4801.7300			
	All goods of this subheading weighing less than 225 g/m² other than cellulose wadding, webs of cellulose fibres (soft tissues) and than paper covered by the four preceding entries.		31 500 tonnes					
		2389	(of which not more than 25 000 tonnes wallpaper base)	4801.5300				
		2397	(of which not more than 6 500 tonnes other than wallpaper base)	4801.4100 4801.5400 4801.8291 4801.9399	4801.4310 4801.5500 4801.8299	4801.4510 4801.5600 4801.8450	4801.5210 4801.7700 4801.8491	4801.5250 4801.8210 4801.9310
	All goods of this subheading weighing 225 g/m² or more		41 700 tonnes					
		2249	(of which not more than 24 000 tonnes folding boxboard made from 100 per cent woodpulp)	4801.8411	4801.8419			
		2257	(of which not more than 3 700 tonnes folding boxboard made from furnishes containing waste paper)	4801.8421	4801.8429			
		2265	(of which not more than 14 000 tonnes other paperboard not mentioned in the two entries immediately preceding this entry)	4801.4399 4801.8600 4801.9799	4801.4550 4801.8800	4801.8440 4801.9100	4801.8460 4801.9500	4801.8495 4801.9710

CCT heading and description		Quota serial no.	1979 quota levels (metric tonnes)	Corresponding 1979 tariff/trade code no.				
48.03	Parchment or greaseproof paper and paperboard and imitations thereof, and glazed transparent paper in rolls or sheets:	2516	4 500 tonnes	4803.1000 4803.8099	4803.3000	4803.5000	4803.6000	4803.8010
48.05	Paper and paperboard, corrugated (with or without flat surface sheets), creped, crinkled embossed or perforated, in rolls or sheets: B Other	2575	22 500 tonnes	4805.2100 4805.8099	4805.2900	4805.3000	4805.5000	4805.8010
48.07	Paper and paperboard impregnated coated surface-coloured surface decorated or printed (not merely ruled, lined or squared and not constituting printed matter within chapter 49): in rolls or sheets: C Other: Coated printing paper weighing less than 225 g/m²	7149 *	19 504 tonnes (of which not more than 9 464 tonnes mechanical weighing not more than 65 g/m²)	4807.5712	4807.5922	4807.5932		
		7157	(of which not more than 7 500 tonnes other mechanical)	4807.5718	4807.5928	4807.5938		
		2613	(of which not more than 2 540 tonnes other than mechanical)	4807.5750	4807.5951	4807.5959		
	Other than above	2672	51 350 tonnes (of which not more than 25 500 tonnes folding boxboard made from 100 per cent woodpulp)	4807.6511	4807.6519			
		2699	(of which not more than 1 600 tonnes folding boxboard made from furnishes containing waste paper)	4807.6521	4807.6529			
		2702	(of which not more than 24 250 tonnes other paper and paperboard)	4807.5500 4807.6599 4807.8111 4807.9110	4807.5600 4807.6610 4807.8119 4807.9199	4807.5800 4807.6699 4807.8150 4807.9700	4807.5980 4807.6800 4807.8199 4807.9900	4807.6400 4807.7000 4807.8500
48.15	Other paper and paperboard cut to size or shape: B Other	2826	5 500 tonnes	4815.1000 4815.5010 4815.9910	4815.2100 4815.5099 4815.9999	4815.2900 4815.6100	4815.3000 4815.6500	4815.4000 4815.9500
ex Chapter 48	Other products of chapter 48 excluding products of subheading no. 48.01 A.	2915 *	5 250 tonnes					
	4801.0500 4801.0600 4801.3500 4801.3700 4801.4700 4801.4900 4804.1000 4804.2100 4804.2500 4804.4000 4804.5010 4804.5099 4804.6000 4804.7000 4804.8000 4805.1000 4807.1000 4807.3000 4808.0000 4810.1000 4810.9000 4811.2100 4811.2900 4811.4000 4812.0000 4813.1000 4813.3000 4813.5000 4813.9000 4814.1000 4814.3000 4814.9000 4815.0510 4815.0599 4816.1000 4816.9100 4816.9500 4816.9600 4816.9800 4816.9900 4818.1000 4818.2100 4818.2900 4818.3000 4818.4000 4818.5000 4818.6100 4818.6900 4818.8010 4818.8099 4819.0000 4820.1000 4820.9000 4821.0100 4821.1100 4821.1300 4821.1500 4821.2100 4821.2500 4821.3100 4821.3300 4821.3700 4821.4000 4821.5000 4821.6000 4821.7000 4821.9900								

Note: Finnish quota no. 2125: newsprint paper for any reason ineligible for the EEC quota bearing T/Γ code numbers 4801.6512, 4801.6514 or 4801.6515, is also admissable to this quota.

Norway

Chapter 48 Paper and paperboard: articles of paper pulp, of paper or of paperboard

48.01	Paper and paperboard (including cellulose wadding), machine made in rolls or sheets: C Kraft paper and kraft board: II other: Kraft liner.	1863	8 400 tonnes	4801.1400 4801.3150	4801.1500	4801.2100	4801.2700	4801.3110
	Kraft paper for large capacity sacks.	1928	16 000 tonnes	4801.1600	4801.2300	4801.2800		
	Other	1987	12 200 tonnes (of which not more than 3 200 tonnes bleached and semi-bleached)	4801.1200 4801.2610 4801.2999	4801.1310 4801.2690 4801.3310	4801.2510 4801.2911	4801.2551 4801.2919	4801.2559 4801.2991
		1955	(of which not more than 9 000 tonnes unbleached)	4801.0800 4801.1790	4801.0900 4801.1910	4801.1100 4801.1990	4801.1350 4801.3350	4801.1710
	ex F Other Bible paper, manifold (thin typing) paper; printing paper and writing paper weighing less than 225 g/m² and not containing mechanical woodpulp or in which mechanical woodpulp does not represent more than 5 per cent.	2087	14 750 tonnes	4801.5800	4801.6100	4801.6200	4801.6610	4801.6699
	Printing paper and writing paper weighing less than 225 g/m² containing more than 5 per cent of mechanical woodpulp.	2133 *	34 705 tonnes	4801.6400	4801.6900			
	Semi-chemical fluting paper weighing less than 225 g/m².	2176	17 500 tonnes	4801.7500				
	Sulphite wrapping and packaging paper weighing less than 225 g/m².	2206	13 200 tonnes	4801.7100	4801.7300			
	All goods of this subheading weighing less than 225 g/m², other than cellulose wadding, webs of cellulose fibres (soft tissues) and than paper covered by the four previous entries.	2419	13 170 tonnes (of which not more than 6 000 tonnes tissue paper (hard)	4801.9310				
		2427 *	(of which not more than 7 170 tonnes other papers)	4801.4100 4801.5300 4801.8210 4801.9399	4801.4310 4801.5400 4801.8291	4801.4510 4801.5500 4801.8299	4801.5210 4801.5600 4801 8450	4801.5250 4801.7700 4801.8491
	All goods of this subheading weighing 225 g/m² or more	2281	10 900 tonnes (of which not more than 2 600 tonnes folding boxboard made from furnishes containing waste paper)	4801.8421	4801.8429			
		2303	(of which not more than 8 300 tonnes other paperboard not mentioned in the entry in this column immediately preceding this one)	4801.4399 4801.8460 4801.9500	4801.4550 4801.8495 4801.9710	4801.8411 4801.8600 4801.9799	4801.8419 4801.8800	4801.8440 4801.9100
48.03	Parchment or greaseproof paper and paperboard, and imitations thereof, and glazed transparent paper, in rolls or sheets	2524	18 500 tonnes	4803.1000 4803.8099	4803.3000	4803.5000	4803.6000	4803.8010
48.07	Paper and paperboard, impregnated, coated, surface-coloured, surface-decorated or printed (not being merely ruled, lined or squared and not constituting printed matter within chapter 49), in rolls or sheets:							

CCT heading and description		Quota serial no.	1979 quota levels (metric tonnes)	Corresponding 1979 tariff/trade code no.
	C Other		6 700 tonnes	
		2753	(of which not more than 3 700 tonnes folding boxboard made from 100 per cent woodpulp	4807.6511 4807.6519
		2761	(of which not more than 1 000 tonnes folding boxboard made from other body furnishes)	4807.6521 4807.6529
		2788	(of which not more than 2 000 tonnes other paper and paperboard not mentioned in the two entries in this column immediately preceding this one)	4807.5500 4807.5600 4807.5712 4807.5718 4807.5750 4807.5800 4807.5922 4807.5928 4807.5932 4807.5938 4807.5951 4807.5959 4807.5980 4807.6400 4807.6599 4807.6610 4807.6699 4807.6800 4907.7000 4807.8111 4807.8119 4807.8150 4807.8199 4807.8500 4807.9110 4807.9199 4807.9700 4807.9900
ex Chapter 48	Other products of chapter 48, excluding products of subheading no. 48.01 A,		7 750 tonnes	
		2931	(of which not more than 2 100 tonnes creped household and toilet paper)	4805.3000
		2958	(of which not more than 5 650 tonnes other than creped household and toilet paper)	
	4801.0500 4801.0600 4801.3500 4801.3700 4801.4700 4801.4900 4804.1000 4804.2100 4804.2500 4804.4000 4804.5010 4804.5099 4804.6000 4804.7000 4804.8000 4805.1000 4805.2100 4805.2900 4805.5000 4805.8010 4805.8099 4807.1000 4807.3000 4808.0000 4810.1000 4810.9000 4811.2100 4811.2900 4811.4000 4812.0000 4813.1000 4813.3000 4813.5000 4813.9000 4814.1000 4814.3000 4814.9000 4815.0510 4815.0599 4815.1000 4815.2100 4815.2900 4815.3000 4815.4000 4815.5010 4815.5099 4815.6100 4815.6500 4815.9500 4815.9910 4815.9999 4816.1000 4816.9100 4816.9500 4816.9600 4816.9800 4816.9900 4818.1000 4818.2100 4818.2900 4818.3000 4818.4000 4818.5000 4818.6100 4818.6900 4818.8010 4818.8099 4819.0000 4820.1000 4820.9000 4821.0100 4821.1100 4821.1300 4821.1500 4821.2100 4821.2500 4821.3100 4821.3300 4821.3700 4821.4000 4821.5000 4821.6000 4821.7000 4821.9900	

Note: Norwegian quota no. 2133: newsprint paper for any reason ineligible for the EEC quota bearing T/T code numbers 4801.6512, 4801.6514 or 4801.6515 is admissable to this quota.

Austria

Chapter 48	Paper and paperboard: articles of paper pulp, of paper or of paperboard			
48.01	Paper and paperboard (including cellulose wadding), machine made, in rolls or sheets:			
	C Kraft paper and kraft board:			
	ex II Other, excluding kraft liner and kraft paper for large capacity sacks	1944	5 000 tonnes	4801.0800 4801.0900 4801.1100 4801.1200 4801.1310 4801.1350 4801.1710 4801.1790 4801.1910 4801.1990 4801.2510 4801.2551 4801.2559 4801.2610 4801.2690 4801.2911 4801.2919 4801.2991 4801.2999 4801.3310 4801.3350
	ex F Other:			
	Bible paper, manifold (thin typing) paper; printing paper and writing paper weighing less than 225 g/m² and not containing mechanical woodpulp or in which mechanical woodpulp does not represent more than 5 per cent.	2052	2 500 tonnes	4801.5800 4801.6100 4801.6200 4801.6610 4801.6699
	Printing paper and writing paper weighing less than 225 g/m² and containing more than 5 per cent of mechanical woolpulp.	2117	830 tonnes	4801.6400 4801.6900
	All goods of this subheading weighing less than 225 g/m² other than sulphite wrapping and packaging paper, semi-chemical fluting paper, cellulose wadding, webs of cellulose fibres (soft tissues) and than paper covered by the two entries in this column immediately preceding this one.	2362	580 tonnes	4801.4100 4801.4310 4801.4510 4801.5210 4801.5250 4801.5300 4801.5400 4801.5500 4801.5600 4801.7700 4801.8210 4801.8291 4801.8299 4801.8450 4801.8491 4801.9310 4801.9399
	All goods of this subheading weighing 225 g/m² or more	2222	830 tonnes	4801.4399 4801.4550 4801.8411 4801.8419 4801.8421 4801.8429 4801.8440 4801.8460 4801.8495 4801.8600 4801.8800 4801.9100 4801.9500 4801.9710 4801.9799
48.07	Paper and paperboard, impregnated, coated, surface-coloured, surface-decorated or printed (not being merely ruled, lined or squared and not constituting printed matter within chapter 49), in rolls or sheets:			
	C Other			
	Coated printing or writing paper weighing less than 225 g/m².		18 400 tonnes	
		7351 *	(of which not more than 400 tonnes mechanical weighing not more than 65 g/m²)	4807.5712 4807.5922 4807.5932
	Other	2591	(of which not more than 18 000 tonnes coated printing paper other than above)	4807.5718 4807.5750 4807.5928 4807.5938 4807.5951 4807.5959
		2664	3 000 tonnes	4807.5500 4807.5600 4807.5800 4807.5980 4807.6400 4807.6511 4807.6519 4807.6521 4807.6529 4807.6599 4807.6610 4807.6699 4807.6800 4807.7000 4807.8111 4807.8119 4807.8150 4807.8199 4807.8500 4807.9110 4807.9199 4807.9700 4807.9900
48.15	Other paper and paperboard, cut to size or shape:			
	B Other	2796 *	4 113 tonnes	4815.1000 4815.2100 4815.2900 4815.3000 4815.4000 4815.5010 4815.5099 4815.6100 4815.6500 4815.9500 4815.9910 4815.9999
ex Chapter 48	Other products of chapter 48, excluding products of subheading no. 48.01 A.	2907 *	3 885 tonnes	as below
	4801.0500 4801.0600 4801.1400 4801.1500 4801.1600 4801.2100 4801.2300 4801.2700 4801.2800 4801.3110 4801.3150 4801.3500 4801.3700 4801.4700 4801.4900 4801.7100 4801.7300 4801.7500 4803.1000 4803.3000 4803.5000 4803.6000 4803.8010 4803.8099 4804.1000 4804.2100 4804.2500 4804.4000 4804.5010 4804.5099 4804.6000 4804.7000 4804.8000 4805.1000 4805.2100 4805.2900 4805.3000 4805.5000 4805.8010 4805.8099 4807.1000 4807.3000 4808.0000 4810.1000 4810.9000 4811.2100 4811.2900 4811.4000 4812.0000 4813.1000 4813.3000 4813.5000 4813.9000 4814.1000 4814.3000 4814.9000 4815.0510 4815.0599 4816.1000 4816.9100 4816.9500 4816.9600 4816.9800 4816.9900 4818.1000 4818.2100 4818.2900 4818.3000 4818.4000 4818.5000 4818.6100 4818.6900 4818.8010 4818.8099 4819.0000 4820.1000 4820.9000 4821.0100 4821.1100 4821.1300 4821.1500 4821.2100 4821.2500 4821.3100 4821.3300 4821.3700 4821.4000 4821.5000 4821.6000 4821.7000 4821.9900	

Note: Austrian quota no. 2117: newsprint paper for any reason ineligible for the EEC quota bearing T/T code numbers 4801.6512, 4801.6514 or 4801.6515 is also admissable to this quota.

Switzerland

ex Chapter 48	Paper and paperboard: articles of paper pulp, of paper or of paperboard with the exception of products of subheading no. 48.01 A	3007 *	2 550 tonnes	

CCT heading and description	Quota serial no.	1979 quota levels (metric tonnes)	Corresponding 1979 tariff/trade code no.
Portugal			
ex Chapter 48 Paper and paperboard			
ex 48.01 CIIa and CIIb Kraft liner	2044 *	12 286 tonnes	4801.1400 4801.1500 4801.2100 4801.2700 4801.3110 4801.3150
48.01 F} 48.05 B} All goods of these subheadings	2508 *	1 158 tonnes	as below

4801.4100	4801.4310	4801.4399	4801.4510	4801.4550	4801.4700	4801.4900	4801.5210	4801.5250	4801.5300	4801.5400	4801.5500	4801.5600
4801.5800	4801.6100	4801.6200	4801.6400	4801.6610	4801.6699	4801.6900	4801.7100	4801.7300	4801.7500	4801.7700	4801.8210	4801.8291
4801.8299	4801.8411	4801.8419	4801.8421	4801.8429	4801.8440	4801.8450	4801.8460	4801.8491	4801.8495	4801.8600	4801.8800	4801.9100
4801.9310	4801.9399	4801.9500	4801.9710	4801.9799	4805.2100	4805.2900	4805.3000	4805.5000	4805.8010	4805.8099		

Iceland

ex Chapter 48	Paper and paperboard: articles of paper pulp, of paper or of paperboard with the exception of products of subheading no. 48.01 A	2923	10 tonnes

Chapter 49 Duty-free quotas: printed matter

CCT heading and description		1979 quota levels (metric tonnes)	Quota serial no.	Corresponding 1979 tariff/trade code no.
ex Chapter 49	Printed books, newspapers, pictures and other products of the printing industry: manuscripts, typescripts and plans – subject to customs duties in the common customs tariff (headings nos. 49.03, 49.05 A, 49.07 A, 49.07 CII, 49.08, 49.09, 49.10, 49.11 B)	Austria 207.039	3082	4903.0000 4905.1000 4907.1000 4907.9900 4908.0000
		Finland 879.762	3104	
		Iceland 2.363	3112	
		Norway 75.659	3139	4909.0010 4909.0020 4910.0010 4910.0099 4911.9200
		Portugal 25.000	3147	
		Sweden 1 443.623	3155	4911.9300 4911.2110 4911.2199
		Switzerland 1 033.450	3163	

The quotas marked with an asterisk in the above tables have been increased by the amounts shown below.

Quota serial number	Increase (Tonnes)
Sweden	
2141	5 500
2567	34
2583	712
7165	574
2834	164
2842	28
2885	62
Austria	
7351	400
2796	196
2907	185
Portugal	
2044	106
2508	158
Finland	
2125	2 500
7149	929
2195	250
Switzerland	
3007	50
Norway	
2133	2 730
2427	670

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Overseas trade exhibitions

Transpo fair moves slowly

From Alan Ingle, British high commission, Singapore

Eleven British firms exhibited in the British pavilion at the Transpo Asia exhibition in Singapore from 25 to 29 November.

This was the first international transportation, maintenance and ancillary products exhibition in Singapore, and the first to be held at the New World Trade Centre. But being a first-time event perhaps contributed to the exhibition not attracting greater support, for there were less than 50 exhibitors. There was also disappointment that there were not more visitors from the south-east Asia region.

Nevertheless, the British group stand was particularly attractive and exhibitors were generally satisified. Some useful sales were secured and there were many expressions of interest for the future. Wasey Exhaust, exhibiting its range of diesel engine silencers for the first time outside the United Kingdom, obtained significant orders. Others, such as Trevor Deakin Instrumentation Consultants, Saber Motor Accessories and Dexion Ltd, all reported success.

Good response at Scanautomatic 78

From Kurt Lundin, British consulate-general, Gothenburg

Sixteen British exhibitors made up one of the most attractive stands at Scanautomatic 78, the fifth international fair held at Gothenburg from 28 November to 2 December. The fair covers hydraulics, pneumatics, electronic and transmission equipment. The British stand was the only national joint venture at the fair among 160 main exhibitors representing 610 companies from 18 countries.

The British display was a joint venture between the British Overseas Trade Board and the Association of Hydraulic Equipment Manufacturers (Ahem).

The fair was visited by approximately 11 500 trade visitors and, as previously, there were concurrent conferences and seminars arranged primarily for production and design staff. The British exhibitors got a very large number of serious inquiries with good prospects of firm orders and some inquiries have already been so converted.

Moog has set up a sales office in Gothenburg as its sales on the Scandinavian market now warrant a local presence.

The good result is perhaps best reflected by the fact that several British participants in this joint venture are already seriously considering a return to Scanautomatic in 1980.

Overseas trade export services

MSAS's new Sunbury airfreight terminal.

MSAS moves and reorganises

Two major operations – reorganisation and relocation – have been carried out by McGregor Swire Air Services.

The reorganisation, which affects MSAS's UK and overseas activities, was planned to strengthen the company's market position. The main UK moves are the appointment of Jeremy Sayers – previously MSAS's managing director for its UK, Africa and Middle East operations – to the position of finance director. In addition to spearheading MSAS's worldwide financial operations, he will be responsible for uprating the company's minicomputer system to enable it to provide document processing and management information as well as accounting procedures.

Arising from this move, Mike Wheeler has been promoted to general manager in the UK, controlling MSAS's UK commercial development operations and services.

Mike Wheeler's base is MSAS's new airfreight terminal at Sunbury-on-Thames, officially opened on 12 December.

In its first phase, the office/warehouse complex has 10 000 sq ft of office accommodation with 20 000 sq ft of warehouse space. There is a further 23 000 sq ft warehouse space available for expansion.

Housed in the complex are the divisions of MSAS's London operations previously sited at Colnbrook and Staines. This new location was chosen after considering 36 sites around the London Heathrow area and following considerable discussions with the firm's staff.

The Sunbury location provides MSAS with quick access to Heathrow, still the main outlet for the company's traffic, and to its main inward trunking route from Birmingham. Heathrow is a maximum of 20 minutes away and the lorry which picks up cargo from Birmingham can leave Sunbury at 16.00 hours and arrive back by 01.30 hours.

More than 80 per cent of MSAS's traffic moves through Sunbury, so modern cargo handling systems and communications facilities have been installed. The busiest time for the warehouse is in the early hours of the morning when most of the consolidation work is done to enable early flights to be caught from Heathrow.

This is the third major terminal to be opened by MSAS this year. The others are at San Francisco and Kelsterbach, Frankfurt. These new terminals will help the company cope with increasing business which, by the end of 1978, will have handled worldwide 640 000 consignments amounting to 37 million kg of air freight.

Richard Stevens, managing director of MSAS, describes 1978 as the best year for the company with revenue to the company increasing by 30 per cent and costs only up 10 per cent.

Further information: circle 265

Midland Bank sets up exports finance scheme

From 15 January 1979, Midland Bank will have a new scheme to provide post-shipment export finance. It is intended for customers who have only a small, or intermittent, export turnover and who do not make use of the Export Credits Guarantee Department's insurance cover or the existing short-term schemes supported by ECGD and the banks.

The scheme has been devised by Midland Bank and the British Overseas Engineering and Credit Co (BOECC), a subsidiary of the London American International Corporation, and part of the Midland Bank group. It will be available to exporters who are customers of the bank or BOECC, and who have an annual export turnover normally not exceeding £100,000. The scheme will provide finance for 90 per cent of the amount of export transactions supported by bills of exchange or promissory notes covering payment from sight up to six months credit.

A major innovation, says Midland, is the emphasis placed on the exporter's ability to perform individual contracts. This means that any overdraft facilities which the customer already uses, or the customer's own resources, may be directed to working capital requirements instead of the financing of export credit.

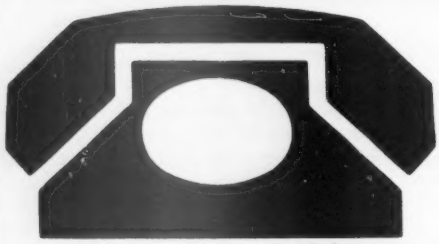
Further information: circle 266

OTAR: help for exporters

Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section (OTAR), Export Services and Promotions Division, Department of Trade, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel. 01-248 5757) can give you directly, or through your regional office, up-to-date information on the tariffs and customs regulations of overseas countries, import licensing regulations and restrictions including import quotas; certificate of origin; consular invoices and fees; labelling and marking requirements; foodstuffs, drugs and pharmaceuticals; agency legislation, setting up of a subsidiary company and the imports of samples. It also provides information, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, on health regulations for livestocks meat, animal products and plants and seeds. In short, OTAR can help on almost all legislation which affects the entry of British goods into overseas countries.

Inquiries which concern the countries of more than one sub-section (excluding inquiries involving only EEC countries) should be made to OTAR's co-ordination sub-section on 01-248 5757 extension 452 or 454.

For information on specific countries, phone the number and extension given below



01-248 5757

extension

Sub-section A
1 Co-ordination of EEC regulations, requirements and common customs tariff (CCT), Denmark, France incl. overseas territories, Greece, Turkey, Cyprus

408 Denmark (incl. Faroe Islands and Greenland). EEC legislation on tariff and non-tariff barriers relative to community trade
423 France and French overseas departments, French overseas territories, Comoros
439 Greece (incl. Dodecanese Islands), Turkey, Cyprus

2 Benelux, Dutch overseas territories, Irish Republic, Italy, Federal Republic of Germany

288 Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Netherlands Antilles, Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao, St Eustatius, St Martin (Dutch), Saba, Suriname
466 Italy, Irish Republic
467 Federal Republic of Germany

Sub-section B
Efta countries, Spain, Gibraltar, Malta, Israel, Macao

458 Israel, Norway, Gibraltar, Malta
459 Austria, Sweden, Switzerland
460 Portugal, Finland, Iceland, Macao
461 Spain, Canary Islands, Andorra

Sub-section C
1 North America, Bahamas, Bermuda, West Indies

455 Canada
456 USA (incl. Alaska, Caroline Islands, Guam, Hawaii, Mariana Islands, Marshall Islands, Panama Canal Zone, Puerto Rico, Samoa (US), Virgin Islands (US), Wake Island)
7312 Anguilla, Antigua, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, St Kitts/Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands

2 South and Central America

474 Argentina, British Antarctic Territories and Antarctica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Falkland Islands, Haiti, Paraguay, Uruguay, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela
476 Brazil, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama

Sub-section D
Africa

462 Algeria, Ceuta and Melilla, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Libya, Morocco, Sudan, Tunisia, Western Sahara
471 Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Jibuti (Djibouti), Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Rwanda, St Helena and Tristan da Cunha and Ascension Islands, Sao Tome/Principe, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa (with Botswana, Lesotho, SW Africa and Swaziland), Zambia, British Indian Ocean Territory
472 Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Empire, Chad, Congo (Brazzaville), Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Upper Volta, Zaire
473 The Gambia, Liberia, Nigeria, Rhodesia, Sierra Leone

Sub-section E
Australasia and South East Asia, Eastern Bloc, China, Mongolia, Yugoslavia

401 New Zealand, Singapore, Thailand, W. Samoa, Chatham Islands, Cook Islands, Niue Islands, Tokelau Islands, Philippines
468 Australia, Solomon Islands, Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Christmas Island (Indian Ocean), Nauru, New Hebrides, Papua New Guinea, Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, USSR, China, Mongolia, Yugoslavia
469 Brunei, Fiji, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Tonga, Gilbert Islands (incl. Ocean Island, Phoenix and Northern Line Islands), Tuvalu, Norfolk Island, Pitcairn Island

Sub-section F
Middle East (Part) and Asia (Part)

420 Afghanistan, Burma, India, Pakistan, Japan, Korea Democratic Peoples Republic, Korea Republic of, Taiwan, Yemen Arab Republic, Yemen Peoples Democratic Republic
475 Iraq, Kampuchea (formerly Cambodia), Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Vietnam Socialist Republic of, Bahrain, Iran, Oman, Qatar, Syria, United Arab Emirates
7062 Bangladesh, Jordan, Maldives, Nepal, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka

Overseas trade country data

Abu Dhabi

Artificial sweeteners. Information has been received that with effect from 1 December the Municipality of Abu Dhabi has banned the importation of artificial sweeteners in foodstuffs including soft drinks.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 457/420.

Australia

Iron and steel products. A notice in *Trade and Industry*, 28 July, reported the level of imports of hoop, strip, sheets and plates of iron or steel which would be permitted to be imported into Australia during the quota period 1 January-30 June 1979.

The Australian government has now announced the percentage factors which will be applied in allocating quotas for these goods for this period.

The validity period of the licence itself will be confined to the same period. No extension of validity will be allowed beyond 30 June 1979.

The percentage factors will be: Hot rolled steel 32.47 per cent; cold rolled steel 33.00 per cent; galvanised steel 34.30 per cent.

Inquiries OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 468/469/401.

Fabrics in the grey. On 22 November by-laws were made amending the provisions applying to fabrics in the grey for printing in Australia falling under tariff nos. 51.04.4, 55.09.41, 55.09.61 and 56.07.91 to exclude:

a Fabrics woven from polyethylene or polypropylene or polyethylene and polypropylene monofil or strip;
b Fabrics printed only with markings, or any kind, solely or principally at or near both selvedges; and
c Fabrics printed with markings, which do not exceed 10 per cent of the total area of the fabric.

The change took effect on 23 November.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5319.

Ref: CRE 675/77.

Electric motors, generators, rotary converters. The Australian government has requested the Industries Assistance Commission to inquire into the question of protection for electric motors, generators and rotary converters falling within tariff item 85.01.1.

Pending submission of its report and recommendations to the government, the commission has also been requested to report within 75 days on whether short-term assistance should be accorded to the production of electric motors of the following type: ac threephase squirrel-cage, totally enclosed, fan-cooled, having a maximum rating of 0.746 kW or more, but not exceeding 38 kW (tariff item 85.01.12).

UK firms and trade associations intending to submit evidence at the public hearing, details of which will be announced later, should advise the Industries Assistance Commission as soon as possible at PO Box 80 Canberra ACT 2600. Evidence may be submitted through the accredited agent of the firm or trade association concerned, or through the Australian-British Trade Association, 6th Floor, Dorland House, 18-20 Lower Regent Street, London SW1Y 4PW, tel 01-930 2524, who will represent UK interests if authorised.

The association charges a fee for its services, the amount varying according to the work entailed in the preparation of a submission and whether or not the interested party is a member.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5315

Ref: CRE 1866/78.

Pencils and paint brushes. The Australian Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs recently declared that pencils and children's paint brushes having coatings containing excess levels of lead or other toxic materials are prohibited imports in that they are goods of a dangerous character and a menace to the community.

The prohibition applies to coatings containing:

Lead exceeding 0.25 per cent; arsenic exceeding 0.1 per cent; antinomy exceeding 0.1 per cent; cadmium exceeding 0.1 per cent; selenium exceeding 0.1 per cent; mercury exceeding 0.01 per cent; chromium exceeding 0.1 per cent, or
Soluble components of barium exceeding 0.25 per cent by mass (weight) of the non-volatile content of the paint of other substance.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5319.

Ref: CRE 35184.

Kuwait

Customs documentation. The British embassy at Kuwait has reported that original documents only are acceptable to the Kuwait customs authorities for the clearance of imports. One typed original of the certificates of origin and one typed original of the invoice are required.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 475/7062.

Malta

Sponges and thread. The Malta *Government Gazette*, 24 November, carried legal notice 115 of 1978 which had the immediate effect of adding the following items to the list of goods requiring an import licence:

A Sponges: a sponge scourers with a layer of abrasive material; b other sponges.
B Thread or yarn in man-made and/or synthetic fibres.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 458/461.

Mauritius

Alcoholic drinks. From the last budget of 6 June 1978, the special levy on all alcoholic beverages (CCCN 22.03 to 22.09) has been increased from 30 per cent to 50 per cent.

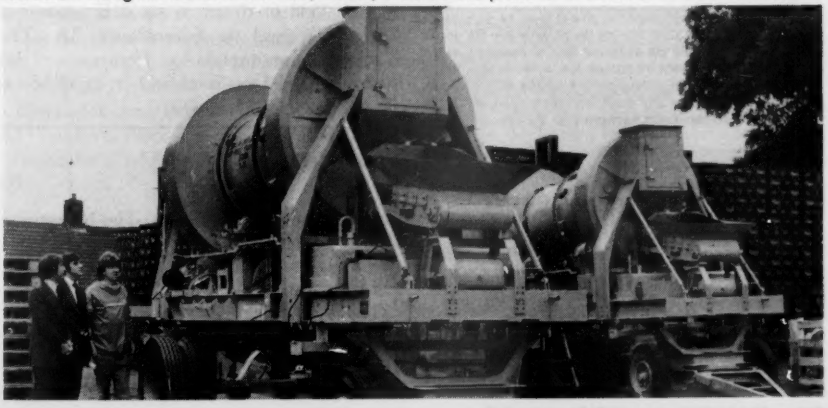
Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 471.

Further information

In many cases further information on the notices published on these pages is available to British exporters from the Department of Trade. The main branches concerned are: Commercial Relations and Exports (CRE) Divisions, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET (tel: direct dialling); and Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section (OTAR), Export Data Branch, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU, tel. 01-248 5757. In each case, the relevant information source is indicated at the end of the notice by its initials (OTAR or CRE) and, in the case of OTAR, the telephone extension.

Asphalt plant for Saudi Arabia

Two of the nine 'Spot-Mix' 600 asphalt plants worth £400,000 to be supplied by Frederick Parker, Leicester. Dong Ah Construction Co, Seoul, ordered the plant for a contract in Saudi Arabia.



Morocco

Import licensing. The Moroccan authorities announced on 14 November that:

1 The following items now require a licence:
38.11, 74.03, 74.07, 74.08, 76.06, 85.10, 84.18, 84.23, 84.24, 84.56, 84.65.
2 Articles under heading 39.07 for technical use only, now widened to include articles for industrial use, can be freely licensed.
3 The following items are now prohibited:
87.01 A
Road tractors including load-carrying tractors with spark ignition or compression engines.
87.14 B
Road vehicles not mechanically propelled:
Tanker trailers for the transport of gas.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 462.

Nigeria

Pre-shipment inspection. Following the item in *Trade and Industry* 15 December page 551, the following is the full text of the announcement issued by the exchange control department of the Central Bank of Nigeria, on 8 December:

The federal military government has decided to obtain the services of the Societé Generale de Surveillance SA (SGS), Geneva, Switzerland to ensure that imports into Nigeria are of the correct quality and quantity according to contracts and that only the normal price is paid. To give effect to this decision SGS or its affiliates and agents, on the instruction of the Central Bank of Nigeria will carry out pre-shipment inspection of goods being consigned to Nigeria.

The services to be rendered by SGS will benefit the importer as well as save foreign exchange for the country.

In addition to the documents and conditions stipulated under the procedure for payment for imports which must be produced and fulfilled, the importer must produce a clean report of findings issued by SGS, before the payment for imports into Nigeria is effected.

The general rules and procedures for the pre-shipment inspection are set down below:

General Rules

a Imports into Nigeria to be shipped, airfreighted etc on the basis of orders placed or contracts concluded on or after 1 January 1979 shall be subject to compulsory quality and quantity inspection and price comparison by SGS before shipment is effected. Accordingly all contracts for imports must stipulate this pre-shipment inspection. It should also be stated that the cost of presentation of the goods to SGS, unpacking, repacking, handling, etc, shall be borne by the seller.

b Notwithstanding that some importers may have placed firm orders for importation of goods, into Nigeria, whether such goods are imported under letters of credit or bills for collection or any other form, the pre-shipment inspection and price comparison will have to be made, unless shipment can be and is completed before 1 January 1979.

c In the case of goods which have already left the port of shipment before 1 January 1979 but still on the high seas, or have arrived in Nigeria's territorial waters or awaiting customs clearance, importers are required to complete form 'M' and lodge with the Central Bank together with all supporting documents.

Applications in respect of goods already in Nigeria's territorial waters or awaiting customs clearance should be submitted not later than 7 January 1979, while those for goods which have left the port of shipment but still in transit on the high seas should be submitted not later than 15 January 1979.

d SGS which is acting for and on behalf of the federal military government shall start inspection operations on 1 January 1979.

e Sellers should be requested to give at least 14 days notice before shipment to SGS indicating the place where the goods may be inspected, and the expected time of despatch. When requesting pre-shipment inspection the seller is required to provide SGS with a copy of the proforma invoice, letter of credit, contract, price list and any other document relevant to the order which SGS may deem necessary for the execution of its inspection.

f The seller should provide all necessary facilities so that SGS can carry out the quality/quantity inspection and price comparison and conduct all such tests analysis, etc. as may be required.

Upon completion of inspection SGS shall issue a report of findings, which shall be either:

(i) A clean report of findings, if the inspection yields a satisfactory result. A clean report of findings shall not be issued until the inspection order copy of form 'M' has been received: and the seller provides SGS with a copy of the final invoice covering the goods, or

(ii) A non-negotiable report of findings if the inspection reveals discrepancies.

Authorised dealers are advised that no payment is to be effected against a letter of credit, bills for collection or any other form unless the documents presented for payment include a clean report of findings. Correspondent banks abroad should be notified accordingly of these requirements.

Importers are further advised to bring this notice to the attention of their overseas sellers and to warn them against the shipment of goods which have not been inspected (unless they are in possession of form M marked by the Central Bank of Nigeria exempting the goods from pre-shipment inspection), or the shipment of goods for which non-negotiable report of findings has been issued by SGS. Sellers should further more be warned that inspection of imports does not relieve them of their contractual obligations to the importer.

The Central Bank of Nigeria will determine which goods either by type or value are to be exempted from pre-shipment inspection.

Procedures

All importation of goods into Nigeria shipped from any port of origin on or after 1 January 1979 whether under letters of credit or bills for collection or any other form shall be subject to pre-import processing by the exchange control department, Central Bank of Nigeria, Lagos.

Applications shall be made on form M, which must be completed in sextuplicate (six copies) and submitted through an authorised dealer to the exchange control department, Central Bank of Nigeria, Lagos for processing. The application must be accompanied by four copies (photocopies acceptable) of the seller's proforma invoice clearly showing the price split into fob and freight with all ancillary charges such as commissions and interest charges shown separately.

The Central Bank of Nigeria will number the form and indicate whether pre-shipment inspection is required by stamping the form with the address of the SGS contact office in the exporting country. Copies 1 and 2 will be returned to the importers' bank and upon receipt of these, the importer may confirm his order to the seller and arrange payment procedures. No letter or credit shall be opened nor any form of payment allowed without a processed form 'M' being in the hands of the importer's bank.

After processing and numbering by the Central Bank of Nigeria importers are advised to send a photocopy of the processed form to their sellers so that they will be aware of the SGS contact address, for the purpose of arranging inspection of the goods. Where pre-shipment inspection has been prescibed, payment may be made by presentation by the importer's bank to the Central Bank of Nigeria of the original copy of the form supported by a 'clean report of findings', together with shipping documents, ie, bill of lading, customs bills of entry, certificate of insurance, settlement invoice (also required for goods on consignment), relevant import licence and parcel post wrappers where applicable.

Importers and commercial banks should note that settlement invoices must henceforth be all inclusive of any additional charges including price variations and applicable contractual escalation clause. The total value of the final settlement invoice must be supported in all respects by a clean report of findings, where pre-shipment inspection has been prescribed. Importers are warned that separate applications to remit funds in respect of ancillary charges relating to an importation will no longer be entertained unless such charges are supported by a 'clean report of findings' issued by SGS, its affiliates or agents.

A processed form 'M' will be valid for importation within 12 calendar months of data of processing, and importers are advised that changes in specification, seller, country of supply, quantity within normal trade tolerances, will not require amendment to the form, provided that these details are supported by a 'clean report of findings'. With regard to price, the final invoice does not have to agree with the details declared on the form M provided:

1 The price is supported in every respect by a clean report of findings issued by SGS in cases where pre-shipment inspection has been prescribed, and

2 Any increase over the declared form 'M' price, does not exceed 10 per cent of the declared total amount e and f. Uplifts in price in excess of 10 per cent require a new form 'M'.

For goods exempted from pre-shipment inspection because of their value, approval will not be granted for more than the value of the original application.

Whilst there does not seen to be provision in the procedure for goods to be stopped by the customs and the importer can take them up, foreign exchange payment will not be made, unless an approved form 'M' or 'clean report of findings' is produced. Exporters are therefore advised not to ship from 1 January without fulfilling inspection requirements.

Any inquiries should be addressed to CRE, 5, Department of Trade, Room 337, 1 Victoria Street, London SW10ET, tel. 01-215 3064 or 01-215 3338 or direct to the UK branch of Societé General de Surveillance SA – The General Superintendance Company (UK) Ltd, Orchard Lea, Winkfield, near Windsor, Berkshire, tel. 034-47 4131.

Norway

Marking of food additives. The Norwegian Director of Health has issued new regulations governing the marking of food additives which will come into force from 1 January 1980.

The regulations entail the marking of additives with an E-number, and names shall be used on those substances for which there is still no E-number. Nitrite, nitrate and caffeine shall be marked with specific names. Colours, sweeteners, preservatives and aromatics shall still be listed with classification description in addition to the E-number, or possibly specific names (eg E-163 colour).

Manufacturers may mark their products in accordance with the E-number system before 1 January 1980. No further information is at present available.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 458.

Philippines

Imported automobiles. The Philippines government has issued presidential decree 1357 which came into effect on 1 July 1978 and was published in the *Official Gazette*, 28 August.

This amends the sales tax on imported automobiles so that section 195 of the National Internal Revenue Code now reads as follows:

For imported automobiles (except trucks and jeeps):
a If landed cost plus mark-up does not exceed P35,000 the sales tax shall be 100 per cent of such landed cost plus mark-up;
b If it is P35,000-P40,000 the sales tax shall be P35,000 plus 125 per cent of the excess over P35,000;
c If it is P40,000-P45,000 the sales tax shall be P41,250 plus 150 per cent of the excess over P40,000;
d If it is P45,000-P50,000 the sales tax shall be P48,750 plus 175 per cent of the excess over P45,000;
e If it exceeds P50,000 the sales tax shall be P57,500 plus 200 per cent of the excess over P50,000.

Landed cost plus mark-up means the landed cost plus 100 per cent of such total value (landed cost plus mark-up is 200 per cent).

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 401/468/469.

Distilled spirits. On 13 November 1978, the Philippines government issued new regulations and tax rates for the specific tax on distilled spirits. The new regulations and rates came into force on 26 August.

Copies of these regulations can be obtained from OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 401/468/469.

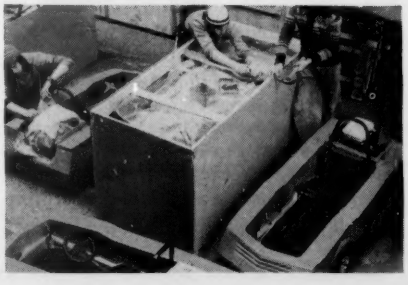
Cigars and cigarettes. On 13 November the Philippines government issued new regulations and tax rates for the specific tax on cigars and cigarettes. The tax came into force on 26 August.

Copies of the regulations can be obtained from OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 401/468/469.

Romania

Sulina free zone. Further to the notice in *Trade and Industry*, 11 August, of the setting up

Two-hundred childrens' go-carts valued at £80,000 are being supplied to Kuwait by J. J. Blow Ltd, Chesterfield, using reinforcements supplied to its subsidiary Blow GRP Ltd by the glass fibre division of TBA Industrial Products Ltd, Rochdale (Turner and Newall). The body and the upholstered one-piece racing seat are moulded from TBA's Mat 80 giving strength, lightness and durability.



of a free zone at Sulina on the Black Sea, a further decree (decree 294, 5 August 1978) has been issued, abrogating and replacing the earlier decree of 27 March.

The activities which can be carried out in the Sulina free port are handling, depositing, sorting, conditioning, packing, manufacturing, processing, marking, exhibiting, testing buying and selling, examining and repairing of ships, financial and banking operations, as well as any other operations specific to the free ports and zones.

For the administration and management of the zone, the 'Administration of the Free Port Sulina' has been set up as a specialised foreign trade enterprise. The Director General and chief of administration is Mr Silviu Nistor, full address:

Mr Silviu P. L. Nistor,
Director General Chief of Administration,
Administration of the Free Port of Sulina,
Ministry of Foreign Trade and International Economic Co-operation,
14 Boulevard Republicii,
Bucharest.
Telex 11353/4.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 468/469/401.

Singapore

Furniture. The Singapore Minister of Finance has issued the Customs Duties (Amendment No. 3) Order 1978, which came into effect on 1 September. The only amendment of concern to UK exporters affects furniture, under tariff heading 94.03.909. The heading now reads:

Per cent

Heading no./ Description	Unit of quantity	Customs duty Full	Preferential	Excise
94.03.909-1 Furniture of wood, office or domestic, not in sets, excluding 94.03.900 to 908	Value	20	18	Nil
94.03.909-2 Furniture of rattan or wood, domestic, in sets	Value	20	16	Nil
94.03.909-3 Other	Value	20	—	Nil

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 401/468/469.

South Africa

Tariff applications. Customs tariff application list 39/78, published in the South African *Government Gazette*, 8 December, contains an applications to the Board of Trade and Industries for increases in duty on:

1A 1 Radial ball bearings, single row, with inside diameter, outside diameter and width equal or equivalent to those of bearings with the following international bearing numbers (excluding angular contact bearings): 6314, 361964 (alternative number 412971 already protected), RW207CCR or RW 50734 (alternative number 1700289 already protected), 1851143 (alternative number LGW 12C2C4 already protected), 1852071, 1851951, 414041 or 16LTJ 1¼ (being single self-aligning sealed ball bearing units with inside diameter or bore not exceeding 40 mm), classifiable under tariff sub-heading 84.62.10.

1A 1 Tapered roller bearings, single row, cups with outside diameter and width and cones with inside diameter and width equal or equivalent to those of cups and cones with the following international bearing numbers: cups K472; L321274 (alternative number K45410 already protected), LM503310. Cones K484; 321274 (alternative number K 45449 already protected) LM503349A classifiable under tariff sub-heading 84.62.20, including those imported with unassembled motor vehicles classifiable under tariff sub-headings 87.02.15, 87.02.22, 87.02.24 and 87.02.60, and with unassembled chassis for light goods vehicles, classifiable under tariff sub-heading 87.04.25.

1B Radial ball bearings, single row, with square bore with inside diameter, outside diameter and width equal or equivalent to those of bearings with the following international bearing numbers: W208PP5 or 613233 or AS4508BN or 208A3TT or DC208TT5; W208PPB5 or 1852100 or DC208TT5 or AS4508BJ; GW208PPB5 or 185100G or DS208TTR5; W208PPB6 or 18519891; W208PPB12 or 613233 or AS4508BC or 208B3TT-1 DS208TT12: 4509/2TR-205C or 4509BA or AS509AD or DC209TT7, classifiable under tariff sub-heading 84.62.10.90.

2 Dolls, torsos of dolls and parts and accessories of dolls, by substituting the following provisions for the existing provisions under tariff sub-headings 97.02.10 and 97.02.30:

3A Beet sugar and cane sugar, in solid form, unrefined, not packed for retail sale, classifiable under tariff sub-headings 17.01.10.

3B Beet sugar and cane sugar, in solid form, unrefined, not containing added flavouring or colouring matter, not packed for retail sale, classifiable under tariff sub-heading 17.01.20.

3C Other beet sugar and cane sugar, in solid form, classifiable under tariff sub-heading 17.01.90.

Those British trade organisations thought to be interested in the applications are being informed. Any British firm affected which wishes to make representations to the South African Board of Trade and Industries and belongs to a trade organisation should, therefore, first contact its own trade association.

If any firm proposes to make independent representations to the South African authorities and requires further information concerning the applications, it should address inquiries to CRE 01-215 5274.

Sweden

Agricultural import levies. The Swedish State Agricultural Board has announced that the agricultural levies for certain items contained in the following headings have been amended:

01.02, 01.03, 02.01, 02.05, 02.06, 16.01, 16.02, 17.01, 17.02

The amendments to 17.01 and 17.02 took effect on 21 November and for the remaining items on 4 December.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 459.

Thailand

Aluminium plates, sheets and strip. The Thai Board of Investment has issued notice 44/2521 whereby a special fee of 10 per cent of the cif price is placed on the import of aluminium wrought plates, sheets, and strip under CCCN 76.03.

The Board of Investment shall determine which imports pay the special fee and inform the Customs Department accordingly.

This notice came into effect on 23 November and remains in force until 23 November 1979.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 401/468/469.

CRE tel. Direct dialling

OTAR telephone 01-248 5757

Extensions to **OTAR** numbers are given at the end of each notice

United Arab Emirates

Import duty changes: From 1 October all imports into Ras Al Khaimah carry a rate of duty of 2 per cent of the cost and freight value except those goods listed below which are exempt:

Foodstuffs, plants, seeds for sowing, tobacco, rice, wheat and flour, sugar, commercial samples and advertising materials not for sale
Duty for goods in transit is 1 per cent

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 475/7062.

United States

High carbon ferrochromium. The US President announced on 15 November 1978, the imposition of a temporary increase of import duty on ferrochromium containing over 3 per cent by weight of carbon, valued less than 38 cents per pound, by 4 per cent per pound.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5397.

Speciality steel. Imports in pounds weight from the product under quota as at 17 November are:

Plates of stainless steel (item 923.21)	3 561 482

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5397.

Wine labelling. The United States' *Federal Register*, 22 November, published a correction, by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, which amends the previous notice on wine labelling of 23 August.

A copy of the text is available from OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 456/457/7312.

Venezuela

Import amendments and modifications. Venezuelan decree 2773, 1 August, amends the import duty on a number of items falling within tariff items:

ex 38.11, 40.09, ex 44.14, ex 5917, ex 60.06, ex 61.01, ex 73.20, ex 73.29, ex 73.40, ex 82.01, ex 82.04, ex 82.05, 82.06, ex 83.01, ex 84.02, ex 84.10, ex 84.11, ex 84.17, ex 84.18, ex 84.21, ex 84.22, ex 84.24, ex 84.25, ex 84.28, ex 84.29, ex 84.45, ex 84.47, ex 84.49, ex 84.60, ex 84.61, ex 85.01, ex 85.03, ex 85.11, 85.25, ex 85.26, 86.08 and ex 94.02

In addition the following modifications have been made by the addition of new sub-headings to:

Per cent

Tariff no./Description	*Ad val.*
85.01.90.01 Armatures	
01 For single/or three-phase motors from more than 1 up to 10 hp	70
99 Others	1
99 Others	
01 For single or three-phase motors from more than 1 and up to 10 hp	70
99 Others	1
85.12.05.01 Cookers	
01 Up to two burners	45
99 Others	120
99 Others	45
85.15.04.04 Monitor receivers of any type	200

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

Statistics

The economy: selected indicators

Series are seasonally adjusted except where shown otherwise

	Gross domestic product (average estimate)	Consumers' expenditure	Fixed capital expenditure			Changes in stocks				Balance of payments		
				of which			of which					
			Total	Manufacturing industry	Distributive and service industries excl. shipping	Total	Manufacturing industry	Wholesalers [1]	Retailers [1]	Current balance	Visible balance	Invisible balance
	at 1975 prices		at 1975 prices			at 1975 prices				at current prices		
Base of index Series in Stock level at end-1977	1975	£ million	£ million			£ million				£ million		
						34,469	20,261	4,540	3,181			
1971	94.5	59 340	20 208	3 923	3 888	235	−277	218	12	1 090	261	829
1972	96.7	62 762	20 239	3 398	4 055	73	−279	173	29	135	−722	857
1973	103.4	65 497	21 609	3 504	4 674	2 983	1 336	432	624	−999	−2 383	1 384
1974	101.4	64 070	21 164	3 822	4 605	1 462	1 288	361	−180	−3 591	−5 235	1 644
1975	100.0	63 192	20 817	3 522	3 841	−1 925	−1 221	−249	−100	−1 855	−3 236	1 381
1976	102.9	63 320	20 489	3 345	3 926	261	316	131	13	−1 137	−3 589	2 452
1977	104.9	62 732	19 738	3 573	4 325	1 051	442	266	29	406	−1 709	2 115
1976 2nd qtr	102.7	15 785	5 137	828	972	−17	−29	−10	−67	−315	−949	636
3rd qtr	103.3	15 884	5 168	849	1 005	189	99	81	46	−417	−1 132	715
4th qtr	104.0	15 927	4 997	856	1 014	214	260	17	27	−326	−958	632
1977 1st qtr	103.8	15 619	4 794	851	1 030	442	235	82	117	−480	−973	493
2nd qtr	104.8	15 495	5 025	879	1 044	354	97	179	4	−280	−762	482
3rd qtr	105.0	15 777	4 965	910	1 103	6	−6	−80	−59	575	31	544
4th qtr	105.9	15 841	4 954	932	1 149	249	116	85	−33	591	−5	512
1978 1st qtr	105.5	16 311	5 030	920	1 169	291	38	81	62	−413	−642	229
2nd qtr	107.9	16 370	5 039	960	1 180	405	272	−62	128	126	−182	308
3rd qtr	108.8	16 810	4 990	968	1 159		162	38	54	−26	−342	316
% change last 2 qtrs on prev. 2 qtrs.	+2.5	+3.2	+0.5	+4.1	+0.9							
on a year earlier	+3.3	+6.1	+0.4	+7.8	+8.9							

	Industrial production		Personal expenditure		Prices and earnings					Labour (UK)			Visible trade (volume)	
	Total all industries	Total manufacturing industries	Retail sales	Cars: new registrations	Retail prices		Wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry		Average gross earnings of all employees (GB, all industries and services covered)	Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students		Unfilled vacancies for adults	Export	Import
				monthly averages		% increase on a year earlier	basic materials and fuel used	manufactured products: home sales		mid-month count	% of total employees	mid-month count	On a balance of payment basis	
	at 1975 prices		at 1971 prices		(not seasonally adjusted)				(old series)				at 1975 prices	
Base of index £m in base year Series in	1975	1975	1971 16,296	thousands	Jan. 1974		1975	1975	Jan. 1970	thousands		thousands	1975 19,463	1975 22,699
1971	99.8	97.4	100.0	108.5	80.0	9.4	23.2	47.6	118.7	775.8	3.4	130.9	85.4	85.7
1972	102.0	100.0	105.3	138.6	85.7	7.1	24.2	50.1	134.0	854.9	3.7	147.3	85.2	95.3
1973	109.5	108.4	110.3	137.1	93.5	9.1	55.8	66.6	152.1	611.0	2.6	307.0	97.8	108.7
1974	105.1	106.5	109.0	102.8	108.5	16.0	86.3	81.9	179.1	599.7'	2.6'	302.7'	104.3	109.7
1975	100.0	100.0	106.7	97.2	134.8	24.2	100.0	100.0	226.6	929.0	3.9	150.0'	100.0	100.0
1976	102.0	101.4	106.5	104.7	157.1	16.5	127.0	117.3	261.9	1 269.8'	5.4'	120.4'	109.8	105.7
1977	105.8	102.9	103.6	107.1	182.0	15.8	145.6	140.6	288.5	1 378.1	5.8	155.6'	118.9	107.0
1977 1st qtr	105.5	103.9	103.3	104	174.1	16.5	144.8	133.0	280.0	1 329.5	5.6		115.8	109.4
2nd qtr	105.6	102.5	102.5	103	181.9	17.4	148.8	139.6	285.3	1 340.6	5.6	157.7	118.0	109.6
3rd qtr	106.2	103.1	104.3	112	184.7	16.5	146.5	143.8	288.3	1 414.6	5.9	151.9	124.4	106.6
4th qtr	105.8	102.0	104.4	110	187.4	13.1	142.2	145.8	300.4	1 427.8	6.0	160.1	117.6	102.7
1978 1st qtr	107.1	102.5	106.3	129	190.6	9.5	140.2	149.2	310.8	1 409.4	5.9	187.7	119.5	114.1
2nd qtr	111.2	105.1	108.0	130	195.8	7.7	146.3	151.8	329.0	1 372.7	5.7	210.3	122.0	110.3
3rd qtr	111.0	105.2	110.9	132	199.2	7.8	144.9	154.8	334.6	1 380.5 p	5.8	213.0	125.3	116.1
4th qtr										1 339.7 p	5.6	230.3		
1978 Jan	106.8	102.3	104.9	125	189.5	9.9	139.4	148.3	306.3	1 419.2	5.9	180.3	111.2	114.4
Feb	107.4	102.2	106.8	120	190.6	9.5	139.1	149.2	311.2	1 409.0	5.9	187.0	127.0	111.1
Mar	107.1	102.9	107.0	142	191.8	9.1	142.0	150.0	314.8	1 400.0	5.9	195.8	120.4	116.7
Apr	111.5	105.7	106.7	132	194.6	7.9	145.1	150.9	325.7	1 387.1	5.8	203.7	125.6	104.4
May	110.2	103.8	108.4	124	195.7	7.7	146.8	151.9	327.2	1 366.4	5.7	209.9	119.0	114.7
Jun	111.8	105.9	108.7	133	197.2	7.4	147.0	152.7	334.0	1 364.7	5.7	217.4	121.4	111.8
Jul	111.3	105.3	111.4	108	198.1	7.8	145.8	153.8	332.7	1 371.4	5.7	211.0	126.3	116.1
Aug	111.4	105.6	111.8	146	199.4	8.0	144.2	154.8	333.2	1 392.1	5.8	209.3	124.4	111.3
Sep	110.4	104.5	109.5	144	200.2	7.8	144.8	155.7	337.8 p	1 378.3	5.8	218.7	125.1	120.8
Oct	109.3 p	103.3 p	109.6	131	201.1	7.8	145.8 p	156.6 p		1 359.6	5.7	228.4	127.4	111.9
Nov			109½		202.5	8.1	147.2 p	157.1 p		1 338.8	5.6	231.3	124.5	120.3
Dec										1 320.7 p	5.5	231.2		
% change latest 3 months														
on prev. 3 months	−0.7	−0.5	−0.9	+15.3	+1.5		+0.2	+1.8	+1.7	−3.0		+8.1	+1½	+4
on a year earlier	+4.0	+1.8	+6.2	+24.2	+7.9		+1.5	+7.8	+16.0	−6.2		+43.8	+4½	+15

p Provisional e Estimate [1] Average of available months

Inquiries: 01-215 3453

Current account of the United Kingdom balance of payments for November

The current account for November is estimated to have been in deficit by £72 million, following the surplus of £217 million in October.

There was a deficit on trade in goods in November of £192 million, following the surplus of £97 million in October. About one-third of this deterioration resulted from unfavourable movements in the more erratic elements of trade and in oil; a further one-third reflected a sharp increase in food imports following the low level of the previous month; and an additional one-third may be attributed to the effects of the industrial disputes involving Ford (see note 1). Total exports in November were valued at £3,052 million, and imports at £3,244 million. The balance on invisibles is projected to have been running at a monthly surplus of £120 million (see section on invisibles).

Table 1 Current account

£ million seasonally adjusted

	Current balance	Visible trade: Visible balance	Visible trade: Exports fob	Visible trade: Imports fob	Invisibles: Balance	Invisibles: Credits	Invisibles: Debits
1977 4th quarter	+591	−5	8 187	8 192	+596	4 206	3 610
1978 1st quarter	−413	−642	8 380	9 022	+229	4 158	3 929
2nd quarter	+126	−182	8 743	8 925	+308	4 273	3 965
3rd quarter	−26	−342	9 071	9 413	+316	4 503	4 187
1978 June	+8	−111	2 910	3 021	+103 [2]		
July	−47	−152	3 029	3 181	+105 [2]		
August	+152	+46	3 005	2 959	+106 [2]	Monthly figures of credits and debits are not available	
September	−131	−236	3 037	3 273	+105 [2]		
October	+217 [1]	+97	3 098	3 001	+120 [1]		
November	−72 [1]	−192	3 052	3 244	+120 [1]		
June-Aug	+97	−217	8 944	9 161	+314		
Sept-Nov	+15 [1]	−330	9 188	9 518	+345 [1]		

[1] Invisibles are projections and subject to revision as information becomes available. [2] One-third of the appropriate calendar quarter's estimate; monthly figures of invisibles not available.

Latest three months

In the three months ended November, the current account was in surplus by £15 million, compared with one of £97 million in the previous three months.

In the latest period, visible trade was in deficit by £330 million, compared with a deficit of £217 million in the previous three months.

The surplus on invisibles in the latest three months period is projected at £345 million.

Current account on balance of payments basis

VISIBLE TRADE (tables 2, 4, 5, 6 and 6a)

November

In November, there was a deficit on visible trade of £192 million, following the surplus of £97 million in October. Exports fell by £46 million: this is probably more than accounted for by the impact of the industrial disputes involving Ford. In contrast, imports rose by £243 million from the low October level. Imports of food rose sharply – by about £100 million – following the fall in the previous month, while imports of oil and the more erratic items, together, were up by £77 million. There was some increase, from a low October figure, in the balance of trade in manufactures (other than erratics and road vehicles), with exports showing a small rise and imports remaining steady.

In terms of volume, exports fell by 2½ per cent in November, while imports rose by 7½ per cent to just below the high September level. The export unit value index rose by 1 per cent in November while the import unit value index was virtually unchanged, leading to an increase of 1 per cent in the terms of trade index.

Three months ended November

In the three months ended November, there was a visible trade deficit of £330 million, following one of £217 million in the previous three months. An increase in the deficit on

Table 2 Current balance, visible trade and invisible trade

Balance of payments basis

£ million seasonally adjusted

	Current balance	Visible trade: Visible balance	Visible trade: Exports fob	Visible trade: Imports fob	Invisible balance
1976	−1 137	−3 589	25 424	29 013	+2 452
1977 r	+406	−1 709	32 182	33 891	+2 115
1976 2nd quarter r	−315	−949	6 160	7 109	+634
3rd quarter r	−417	−1 132	6 513	7 645	+715
4th quarter r	−326	−958	7 097	8 055	+632
1977 1st quarter r	−480	−973	7 512	8 485	+493
2nd quarter r	−280	−762	7 927	8 689	+482
3rd quarter r	+575	+31	8 556	8 575	+544
4th quarter r	+591	−5	8 187	8 192	+596
1978 1st quarter r	−413	−642	8 380	9 022	+229
2nd quarter r	+126	−182	8 743	8 925	+308
3rd quarter r	− 26	−342	9 071	9 413	+316
1978 June r	−8	−111	2 910	3 021	+103 [2]
July r	−47	−152	3 029	3 181	+105 [2]
August r	+152	+46	3 005	2 959	+106 [2]
September r	−131	−236	3 037	3 273	+105 [2]
October r	+217 [1]	+97	3 098	3 001	+120 [1]
November p	−72 [1]	−192	3 052	3 244	+120 [1]
June-Aug	+97	−217	8 944	9 161	+314
Sept-Nov	+15 [1]	−330	9 188	9 518	+345 [1]
Percentage change [3]			+2½	+4	

p Provisional estimates r Revised estimates [1] Invisibles are projections and subject to revision as information becomes available. [2] One-third of the appropriate calendar quarter's estimate; monthly figures of invisibles are not available. [3] Percentage change: latest three months on previous three months.

Table 3 Invisibles

£ million seasonally adjusted

	Invisibles: Total: Balance	Total: Credits	Total: Debits	of which private sector and public corporations [1]: Balance	Credits	Debits
1976	+2 452	14 354	11 902	+4 702	13 179	8 477
1977	+2 115	16 215	14 100	+4 807	14 772	9 965
1976 4th quarter	+632	3 915	3 283	+1 291	3 627	2 336
1977 1st quarter	+493	3 935	3 442	+1 177	3 632	2 455
2nd quarter	+482	3 971	3 489	+1 159	3 659	2 500
3rd quarter	+544	4 103	3 559	+1 222	3 733	2 511
4th quarter	+596	4 206	3 610	+1 249	3 748	2 499
1978 1st quarter	+229	4 158	3 929	+1 091	3 685	2 594
2nd quarter	+308	4 273	3 965	+1 081	3 770	2 689
3rd quarter	+316	4 503	4 187	+1 148	3 949	2 801
1978 October	+120 [2]	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
November	+120 [2]					

n.a. Not available. [1] ie excluding general government transactions and all transfers. [2] See note 1 of table 2.

trade in oil together with a reduction in the surplus on trade in finished manufactures (less erratics) constituted the main adverse movements and more than offset an improvement of £112 million in the balance on the more erratic items.

Total exports were valued at £9,188 million in the three months ended November, 2½ per cent (£244 million) above the level of the previous period, with the main increases in machinery and chemicals. By volume, total exports rose by 1½ per cent (1 per cent excluding the more erratic items).

The value of imports in the latest three months was £9,518 million, 4 per cent (£357 million) higher than in the previous period. Increased imports of oil and finished manufactures less erratics more than outweighed a fall of £99 million in imports of the erratic items. In volume terms, total imports rose by 4 per cent (6 per cent excluding the more erratic items).

With the export unit value index rising by 2 per cent and the import unit value index by 1 per cent, the terms of trade index rose by 1 per cent.

INVISIBLES (table 3)

The latest estimates of invisibles – services, interest, profits and dividends and transfers – relate to the third quarter of 1978 when credits were £4,503 million and debits £4,187 million, giving a surplus of £316 million for the quarter (a monthly average of £105 million). Invisibles of the private sector and public corporations, excluding transfers, were in surplus by £1,148 million in the third quarter (a monthly average of £383 million). The projected surplus on invisibles for the months of the fourth quarter of £120 million is higher than the estimate for the months of the third quarter, when the net contribution to the EEC was at a high level.

Area and commodity analysis of visible trade on an Overseas Trade Statistics basis

EXPORTS

By area (table 7)

In the three months ended November, the value of exports to the developed countries rose by 3 per cent in comparison with the previous three months. Deliveries to the EEC rose by 5 per cent, while the value of goods despatched to the rest of western Europe fell by 2½ per cent, reflecting lower shipments of precious stones. Exports to north America rose by

Table 4 Export and import unit value and volume index numbers

Balance of payments basis — Indices 1975 = 100

	Unit value (Not seasonally adjusted)			Volume (Seasonally adjusted)	
	Exports	Imports	Terms of trade [1]	Exports	Imports
1976	120.7	121.6	99.3	109.8	105.7
1977	142.4	141.4	100.7	118.9	107.1
1976 2nd quarter	116.9	118.4	98.8	109.7	106.3
3rd quarter	123.9	124.4	99.6	110.1	109.0
4th quarter	131.3	133.7	98.2	113.4	107.1
1977 1st quarter	135.7	137.2	98.9	115.8	109.4
2nd quarter	141.4	141.0	100.3	118.0	109.6
3rd quarter	145.2	143.7	101.0	124.4	106.6
4th quarter	147.3	143.8	102.4	117.6	102.7
1978 1st quarter r	149.5	142.6	104.8	119.5	114.1
2nd quarter r	153.7	147.0	104.6	122.0	110.3
3rd quarter r	157.1	149.2	105.3	125.3	116.1
1978 June r	154.9	148.6	104.2	121.4	111.8
July r	155.7	148.9	104.6	126.3	116.1
August r	157.3	148.8	105.7	124.4	111.3
September r	158.3	150.0	105.5	125.1	120.8
October r	158.8	150.8	105.3	127.4	111.9
November p	160.7	150.7	106.6	124.5	120.3
June-Aug	156.0	148.8	104.8	124.0	113.1
Sept-Nov	159.3	150.5	105.8	125.7	117.7
Percentage change	+2	+1	+1	+1½	+4

[1] Export unit value index as a percentage of the import unit value index.

Table 5 Balance of trade in oil and in other goods

Balance of payments basis — £ million seasonally adjusted

	Visible balance		
	Total trade	Trade in oil [1]	Trade in other goods
1976	−3 589	−3 973	+384
1977	−1 709	−2 804	+1 095
1976 2nd quarter	−949	−968	+19
3rd quarter	−1 132	−1 058	−74
4th quarter	−958	−1 000	+42
1977 1st quarter	−973	−800	−173
2nd quarter	−762	−745	−17
3rd quarter	+31	−602	+633
4th quarter	−5	−657	+652
1978 1st quarter r	−642	−642	–
2nd quarter r	−182	−398	+216
3rd quarter r	−342	−515	+173
1978 June r	−111	−107	−4
July r	−152	−221	+69
August r	+46	−98	+144
September r	−236	−196	−40
October r	+97	−131	+228
November p	−192	−167	−25
June-Aug	−217	−426	+209
Sept-Nov	−330	−494	+164

[1] Trade in petroleum and petroleum products.

Table 6 Trade in oil [2]

Balance of payments basis — Seasonally adjusted

	Balance of trade in oil	Exports of oil			Imports of oil				
		Total	Crude oil [1] [SITC (rev 2) 333.0]	Rest of division 33	Total	Crude oil [SITC (rev 2) 333.0]			Rest of division 33
	£ million fob	£ million fob	£ million fob	£ million fob	£ million fob	£ million fob	Million tonnes	Average value per tonne £ fob	£ million fob
1976	−3 973	1 172	178	994	5 145	4 089	87.0	47.0	1 056
1977	−2 804	1 965	904	1 061	4 769	3 681	68.6	53.7	1 088
1976 2nd quarter	−968	266	24	242	1 234	962	21.1	45.8	272
3rd quarter	−1 058	307	45	262	1 365	1 080	22.2	48.8	285
4th quarter	−1 000	378	91	287	1 378	1 122	21.9	51.1	256
1977 1st quarter	−800	454	163	291	1 254	1 006	19.1	53.0	248
2nd quarter	−745	516	239	277	1 261	988	18.2	54.3	273
3rd quarter	−602	560	300	260	1 162	880	16.2	54.3	282
4th quarter	−657	435	202	233	1 092	807	15.1	53.2	285
1978 1st quarter	−642	472	272	200	1 114	866	17.3	50.0	248
2nd quarter	−398	557	312	245	955	734	14.1	52.0	221
3rd quarter r	−515	613	338	275	1 128	890	17.8	50.1	238
1978 June	−107	177	112	65	284	211	4.0	53.1	73
July	−221	180	100	80	401	315	6.2	50.7	86
August r	−98	244	148	96	342	270	5.4	50.4	72
September r	−196	189	90	99	385	305	6.2	49.3	80
October r	−131	205	113	92	336	250	5.2	48.1	86
November p	−167	211	113	98	378	284	6.0	47.2	94
June-Aug	−426	601	360	241	1 027	796	15.6	51.2	231
Sept-Nov	−494	605	315	290	1 099	839	17.4	48.2	260
Percentage change		+½	−13	+21	+7	+5½	+12	−6	+13

[1] Not seasonally adjusted. [2] Trade in petroleum and petroleum products.

Table 6a Value and volume of exports and imports excluding the more erratic items[1]

Balance of payments basis — Seasonally adjusted

	Exports fob		Imports fob	
	Value £ million	Volume index 1975 = 100	Value £ million	Volume index 1975 = 100
1976	23 382	108.9	27 056	106.9
1977	29 520	118.1	31 187	107.5
1976 2nd quarter	5 613	108.0	6 483	105.2
3rd quarter	6 003	109.5	7 094	109.7
4th quarter	6 521	112.2	7 616	109.9
1977 1st quarter	6 934	115.2	7 940	111.4
2nd quarter	7 281	117.3	7 748	106.6
3rd quarter	7 796	122.8	7 931	108.5
4th quarter	7 509	117.0	7 568	103.7
1978 1st quarter r	7 802	120.9	8 391	116.3
2nd quarter r	7 927	122.1	8 272	112.1
3rd quarter r	8 500	128.4	8 804	119.8
1978 June r	2 660	122.0	2 791	113.1
July r	2 814	128.6	2 932	118.1
August r	2 861	129.1	2 804	115.7
September r	2 825	127.5	3 068	125.5
October r	2 884	129.6	2 854	116.9
November p	2 858	127.1	3 061	125.1
June-Aug	8 335	126.6	8 527	115.6
Sept-Nov	8 567	128.1	8 983	122.5
Percentage change	+3	+1	+5½	+6

[1] These are defined as ships, North Sea production installations, aircraft and precious stones.

Table 7 Exports by area

Overseas Trade Statistics basis — £ million fob seasonally adjusted

		Developed countries					Developing countries			
	Total	Total	EEC	Rest of W. Europe	North America	Other	Total	Oil-exporting countries	Other	Centrally planned economies
1976	26 024	18 612	9 249	4 298	3 116	1 949	6 630	3 221	3 409	726
1977	33 308	23 689	12 128	5 594	3 863	2 104	8 613	4 368	4 245	910
1977 2nd quarter	8 272	5 972	3 044	1 446	957	525	2 103	1 074	1 029	245
3rd quarter	8 829	6 290	3 161	1 506	1 083	541	2 213	1 132	1 081	258
4th quarter	8 491	5 888	3 110	1 342	922	513	2 372	1 135	1 236	200
1978 1st quarter	8 854	6 145	3 248	1 352	997	548	2 382	1 185	1 197	293
2nd quarter	9 097	6 506	3 484	1 390	1 048	583	2 400	1 232	1 167	256
3rd quarter	9 560	6 762	3 630	1 449	1 092	592	2 493	1 190	1 303	243
1978 September	3 189	2 255	1 242	419	392	201	838	405	433	90
October r	3 277	2 287	1 236	486	367	199	872	394	478	88
November p	3 300	2 325	1 249	510	355	212	837	378	460	112
June-Aug	9 399	6 653	3 549	1 449	1 061	594	2 461	1 188	1 272	241
Sept-Nov	9 766	6 867	3 727	1 414	1 114	612	2 547	1 176	1 371	290
Percentage change	+4	+3	+5	−2½	+5	+3	+3½	−1	+8	+20

Table 8 Exports by commodity

Overseas Trade Statistics basis — £ million fob seasonally adjusted

					Manufactures[2]									
					Machinery and transport equipment[2]									
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Basic materials	Fuels	Total	Total	Machinery	Road vehicles	Other transport equipment[1,2]	Chemicals	Metals	Textiles	Other manufactures	Miscellaneous
SITC (REV 2)	0-9	0 + 1	2 + 4	3	5-8	7	71-77	78	79	5	67-69	65	Rest of 6 + 8	9
1976	26 024	1 692	735	1 265	21 616	10 383	6 994	2 377	1 012	3 007	2 362	972	4 892	715
1977	33 308	2 217	895	2 078	27 172	12 680	8 337	2 871	1 473	3 821	2 879	1 193	6 599	945
1977 2nd quarter	8 272	539	218	547	6 754	3 105	2 063	723	319	946	751	295	1 693	243
3rd quarter	8 829	591	232	588	7 189	3 394	2 128	736	530	1 029	742	309	1 634	244
4th quarter	8 491	593	218	462	6 966	3 318	2 221	744	354	967	688	292	1 730	244
1978 1st quarter	8 854	699	208	504	7 178	3 320	2 195	759	366	980	738	307	1 840	232
2nd quarter	9 097	729	243	593	7 344	3 457	2 271	805	381	1 037	759	296	1 849	244
3rd quarter	9 560	744	256	647	7 668	3 462	2 352	766	345	1 076	787	311	1 949	253
1978 September	3 189	251	87	201	2 582	1 185	804	254	127	373	260	102	614	107
October r	3 277	252	89	217	2 595	1 196	797	288	110	358	280	109	655	104
November p	3 300	249	91	224	2 623	1 198	822	224	152	388	257	112	683	102
June-Aug	9 399	744	256	636	7 519	3 445	2 312	777	356	1 063	768	310	1 961	235
Sept-Nov	9 766	751	266	642	7 799	3 578	2 424	766	388	1 119	797	323	1 952	313
Percentage change	+4	+1	+4½	+1	+3½	+4	+5	−1½	+9	+5½	+4	+4	+2½	+33

[1] Not seasonally adjusted. [2] Includes North Sea production installations.

5 per cent. Shipments to the other developed countries increased by 3 per cent. Exports to the developing countries in aggregate rose by 3½ per cent in the three months ended November; shipments to the oil exporting countries fell by 1 per cent, but exports to the other developing countries rose by 8 per cent. The value of shipments to the centrally planned economies rose by 20 per cent.

By commodity (tables 8, 9 and 10)

The value of exports of manufactured goods in the three months ended November was 3½ per cent higher than in the previous three months, with a volume rise of 1 per cent. Within this broad group of commodities, the value of deliveries of machinery rose by 5 per cent and 2 per cent by volume, but shipments of road vehicles fell 1½ per cent in value and 4 per cent in volume, reflecting the effects of the industrial disputes involving Ford. Chemical exports rose 5½ per cent in both value and volume in the latest three months, while shipments of metals increased by 4 per cent in value, with volume unchanged. The value of textile exports was 4 per cent up, with a volume rise of 3 per cent. The value of exports of other manufactured goods (excluding trade in

precious stones) fell by 4 per cent and by 5½ per cent in volume. Exports of non-manufactured goods in total rose 1½ per cent in the three months to November. Within this category, the value of shipments of food, beverages and tobacco rose 1 per cent, but volume was virtually unchanged. The value of deliveries of basic materials rose by 4½ per cent, with volume up marginally. Fuel exports were 1 per

Table 9 Exports by commodity: volume indices

Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Indices 1975 = 100 seasonally adjusted

					Manufactures[1]							
						Machinery and transport equipment[1,2]						
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Basic materials	Fuels	Total	Total	Machinery	Road vehicles	Chemicals	Metals	Textiles	Other manu-factures
SITC (rev 2)	0-9	0 + 1	2 + 4	3	5-8	7	71-77	78	5	67-69	65	Rest of 6 + 8
Weights	1 000	71	26	41	828	419	287	92	107	92	36	174
1976	108.7	103	117	120	109	101	99	104	124	109	117	117
1977	119.0	111	125	164	118	105	102	105	141	116	120	135
1977 2nd quarter	118.7	109	118	170	118	105	102	106	141	121	120	136
3rd quarter	123.9	114	130	183	123	110	103	105	150	120	122	131
4th quarter	118.1	115	121	149	117	105	104	105	142	109	112	138
1978 1st quarter	121.9	137	120	176	118	103	100	107	144	115	119	142
2nd quarter	122.7	134	141	205	119	108	102	120	154	118	113	131
3rd quarter	127.1	132	145	228	122	105	102	115	158	117	117	139
1978 September	126.1	132	142	218	122	108	104	116	164	114	115	128
October r	129.1	134	149	236	122	108	103	125	158	124	122	135
November p	128.6	131	150	242	122	105	104	96	170	111	123	144
June-Aug	125.8	133	146	220	121	106	101	117	155	116	117	137
Sept-Nov	127.9	132	147	232	122	107	104	112	164	116	120	136
Percentage change	+1½	—	+½	+5½	+1	+1	+2	−4	+5½	—	+3	−1

[1] Includes North Sea production installations. [2] Indices for other transport equipment SITC (rev 2) 79 are not separately available.

Table 10 Exports by commodity: unit value indices

Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Indices 1975= 100 not seasonally adjusted

					Manufactures							
						Machinery and transport equipment[1]						
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Basic materials	Fuels	Total	Total	Machinery	Road vehicles	Chemicals	Metals	Textiles	Other manu-factures
SITC (rev 2)	0-9	0 + 1	2 + 4	3	5-8	7	71-77	78	5	67-69	65	Rest of 6 + 8
1976	120.8	115	124	126	121	123	123	123	114	119	115	124
1977	142.5	137	144	150	143	149	148	152	128	136	139	142
1977 2nd quarter	141.7	138	151	150	142	146	145	150	128	137	137	143
3rd quarter	145.3	142	145	154	145	152	151	156	129	136	142	145
4th quarter	147.2	139	138	150	148	158	156	161	130	137	145	143
1978 1st quarter	149.5	143	135	141	151	161	159	161	129	142	145	148
2nd quarter	153.7	148	141	140	155	162	162	159	131	145	147	162
3rd quarter	157.3	152	142	138	159	168	167	168	132	150	149	162
1978 September	158.9	151	143	137	161	170	169	170	131	153	150	166
October r	159.3	151	141	135	162	171	168	175	132	152	149	167
November p	161.1	153	143	138	164	174	171	180	132	156	152	165
June-Aug	156.0	152	142	140	158	166	165	164	133	148	148	161
Sept-Nov	159.8	152	143	137	162	172	169	175	132	153	150	166
Percentage change	+2½	−½	+½	−2½	+3	+3½	+2½	+7	−1	+3½	+1½	+3

[1] Indices for other transport equipment SITC (rev 2) 79 are not separately available.

Table 11 Imports by area

Overseas Trade Statistics basis

£ million cif seasonally adjusted

		Developed countries					Developing countries			
	Total	Total	EEC	Rest of W. Europe	North America	Other	Total	Oil-exporting countries	Other	Centrally planned economies
1976	31 569	22 569	11 510	4 645	4 280	2 134	7 860	4 296	3 564	1 109
1977	36 996	27 420	14 161	5 582	4 997	2 680	8 167	3 804	4 362	1 357
1977 2nd quarter	9 601	7 212	3 551	1 647	1 309	705	2 117	1 030	1 087	342
3rd quarter	9 239	6 767	3 601	1 218	1 328	620	2 065	924	1 141	371
4th quarter	8 987	6 833	3 629	1 416	1 101	687	1 828	819	1 009	342
1978 1st quarter	9 870	7 463	3 874	1 553	1 307	728	1 975	925	1 050	310
2nd quarter	10 221	8 207	4 123	2 029	1 387	668	1 814	779	1 035	313
3rd quarter	10 471	7 960	4 161	1 704	1 337	759	2 167	960	1 206	322
1978 September	3 609	2 740	1 467	570	450	253	766	308	459	111
October r	3 387	2 679	1 458	527	445	248	631	252	379	96
November p	3 680	2 803	1 506	613	424	260	694	299	395	124
June-Aug	10 398	8 094	4 101	1 908	1 351	734	1 974	889	1 085	319
Sept-Nov	10 677	8 222	4 431	1 711	1 319	761	2 091	859	1 233	330
Percentage change	+2½	+1½	+8	−10	−2½	+3½	+6	−3½	+14	+3½

Table 12 Imports by commodity

Overseas Trade Statistics basis

£ million cif seasonally adjusted

				Industrial materials				Finished manufactures [2]						
									Machinery and transport equipment [2]					
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Fuels	Total	Basic materials	Chemicals	Other semi-manufactures	Total	Total	Machinery	Road vehicles	Other transport equipment [1,2]	Other	Miscellaneous
SITC (rev 2)	0-9	0 + 1	3	2,4,5,6	2 + 4	5	6	7 + 8	7	71-77	78	79	8	9
1976	31 569	4 983	5 669	11 245	3 248	1 924	6 073	9 225	6 755	4 305	1 432	1 019	2 470	447
1977	36 996	5 945	5 252	13 491	3 612	2 365	7 513	11 803	8 780	5 298	2 133	1 349	3 023	505
1977 2nd quarter	9 601	1 561	1 377	3 462	888	593	1 981	3 086	2 346	1 297	496	553	741	122
3rd quarter	9 239	1 547	1 278	3 324	897	599	1 828	2 964	2 204	1 369	555	280	760	141
4th quarter	8 987	1 336	1 223	3 346	847	569	1 931	3 014	2 236	1 347	598	291	778	123
1978 1st quarter	9 870	1 521	1 267	3 606	845	653	2 108	3 268	2 416	1 442	669	305	852	119
2nd quarter	10 221	1 562	1 078	3 542	809	673	2 060	3 950	3 042	1 569	710	762	908	133
3rd quarter	10 471	1 595	1 256	3 891	829	677	2 385	3 567	2 572	1 612	734	226	995	187
1978 September	3 609	540	426	1 308	280	228	800	1 285	937	569	298	70	348	51
October r	3 387	445	387	1 303	278	245	779	1 225	861	576	201	84	364	54
November p	3 680	562	439	1 398	289	263	846	1 237	881	570	232	78	357	36
June-Aug	10 398	1 561	1 149	3 775	819	673	2 284	3 765	2 795	1 582	694	518	971	184
Sept-Nov	10 677	1 547	1 253	4 009	847	737	2 425	3 747	2 678	1 715	732	232	1 069	141
Percentage change	+2½	−1	+9	+6	+3½	+9½	+6	−½	−4	+8½	+5½	−55	+10	−23

[1] Not seasonally adjusted. [2] Includes North Sea production installations.

Table 13 Imports by commodity: volume indices

Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Indices 1975 = 100 seasonally adjusted

				Industrial materials				Finished manufactures [1]				
									Machinery and transport equipment [1,2]			
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Fuels	Total	Basic materials	Chemicals	Other semi-manufactures	Total	Total	Machinery	Road vehicles	Other
SITC (rev 2)	0-9	0 + 1	3	2,4,5,6	2 + 4	5	6	7 + 8	7	71-77	78	8
Weights	1 000	177	177	341	92	55	194	283	207	137	37	76
1976	106.4	102	100	112	119	122	106	109	108	104	127	110
1977	108.9	102	83	116	113	133	113	123	125	117	160	118
1977 2nd quarter	112.2	107	85	117	109	134	116	130	134	116	150	118
3rd quarter	108.0	105	80	114	111	135	110	123	125	120	168	116
4th quarter	105.6	92	78	117	109	128	117	123	125	116	177	118
1978 1st quarter	116.4	101	85	128	116	153	126	132	132	126	174	133
2nd quarter	116.9	102	71	124	111	157	120	152	159	135	177	135
3rd quarter	119.8	105	84	133	112	161	134	139	136	141	171	146
1978 September	123.5	109	86	132	114	164	131	149	149	151	205	151
October r	116.4	89	78	132	115	178	127	144	140	155	134	155
November p	125.5	110	90	138	118	184	135	146	143	154	155	156
June-Aug	119.0	102	76	130	111	159	131	147	148	139	166	144
Sept-Nov	121.8	103	85	134	116	175	131	147	144	153	165	154
Percentage change	+2½	+½	+12	+3	+4½	+11	—	—	−2½	+11	−½	+7

[1] Includes North Sea production installations. [2] Indices for other transport equipment SITC (rev 2) 79 are not separately available.

Table 14 Imports by commodity: unit value indices

Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Indices 1975 = 100 not seasonally adjusted

				Industrial materials				Finished manufactures				
									Machinery and transport equipment [1]			
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Fuels	Total	Basic materials	Chemicals	Other Semi-manufactures	Total	Total	Machinery	Road vehicles	Other
SITC (rev 2)	0-9	0 + 1	3	2,4,5,6	2 + 4	5	6	7 + 8	7	71-77	78	8
1976	122.4	113	131	121	123	120	121	125	127	127	128	121
1977	141.5	132	148	141	145	140	140	144	146	144	155	139
1977 2nd quarter	141.7	131	149	144	148	140	143	142	144	142	152	138
3rd quarter	143.6	135	149	143	148	143	141	146	148	146	155	143
4th quarter	142.6	137	146	139	139	143	138	148	151	147	161	142
1978 1st quarter	141.6	139	138	138	131	142	140	150	154	148	172	141
2nd quarter	146.1	142	141	143	133	145	147	156	158	150	185	149
3rd quarter	148.0	143	139	146	135	147	151	159	162	151	193	152
1978 September	149.2	141	138	149	136	145	157	161	163	152	198	155
October r	150.0	143	137	150	135	148	158	162	164	152	204	156
November p	149.8	144	135	151	134	148	159	162	165	152	204	154
June-Aug	147.5	143	141	145	135	147	149	157	160	149	191	150
Sept-Nov	149.7	143	137	150	135	147	158	162	164	152	202	155
Percentage change	+1½	−½	−3½	+3½	—	—	+6	+3	+2½	+2	+5½	+3

[1] Indices for other transport equipment SITC (rev 2) 79 are not separately available.

Table 15 Derivation of the visible trade figures on a balance of payments basis

£ million

	Exports				Imports				
	Recorded	Seasonally adjusted			Recorded	Seasonally adjusted			
	Overseas Trade Statistics basis (fob)	Overseas Trade Statistics basis (fob)	Valuation and coverage adjustments	Balance of payments basis (fob)	Overseas Trade Statistics basis (cif)	Overseas Trade Statistics basis (cif)	Adjustments to BOP basis: Valuation adjustments	Adjustments to BOP basis: Coverage adjustments	Balance of payments basis (fob)
1976	26 024	26 024	−600	25 424	31 569	31 569	−1 926	−630	29 013
1977	33 308	33 308	−1 126	32 182	36 996	36 996	−2 107	− 998	33 891
1976 2nd quarter	6 459	6 303	−143	6 160	7 927	7 753	−478	−166	7 109
3rd quarter	6 309	6 617	−104	6 513	7 873	8 208	−513	−50	7 645
4th quarter	7 408	7 320	−223	7 097	8 923	8 845	−518	−272	8 055
1977 1st quarter	7 809	7 716	−204	7 512	9 217	9 169	−563	−121	8 485
2nd quarter	8 463	8 272	−345	7 927	9 766	9 601	−576	−336	8 689
3rd quarter	8 486	8 829	−273	8 556	8 964	9 239	−511	−203	8 525
4th quarter	8 550	8 491	−304	8 187	9 049	8 987	−457	−338	8 192
1978 1st quarter r	8 756	8 854	−474	8 380	9 791	9 870	−531	−317	9 022
2nd quarter r	9 604	9 097	−354	8 743	10 616	10 221	−543	−753	8 925
3rd quarter r	9 025	9 560	−489	9 071	9 995	10 471	−582	−476	9 413
1978 June r	3 299	3 028	−118	2 910	3 783	3 537	−186	−330	3 021
July r	3 066	3 180	−151	3 029	3 381	3 467	−194	−92	3 181
August r	2 979	3 191	−186	3 005	3 229	3 395	−188	−248	2 959
September r	2 980	3 189	−152	3 037	3 385	3 609	−200	−136	3 273
October r	3 409	3 277	−179	3 098	3 582	3 387	−188	−198	3 001
November p	3 505	3 300	−248	3 052	3 870	3 680	−207	−229	3 244
June-Aug	9 344	9 399	−455	8 944	10 393	10 398	−568	−669	9 161
Sept-Nov	9 894	9 766	−578	9 188	10 837	10 677	−595	−564	9 518
Percentage change	+6	+4		+2½	+4½	+2½			+4

Table 16 Exports: value and volume indices excluding the more erratic items

Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted

	Total [1]		Manufactures: Total [1]		Machinery and transport equipment [2]		Other manufactures [3]	
	Value £ million	Volume index 1975 = 100	Value £ million	Volume index 1975 = 100	Value £ million	Volume index 1975 = 100	Value £ million	Volume index 1975 = 100
Weights		919		747		381		131
1976	23 705	108.1	19 297	108	9 407	101	3 549	115
1977	29 852	116.8	23 717	115	11 245	102	4 578	128
1977 2nd quarter	7 356	116.0	5 837	114	2 792	103	1 090	123
3rd quarter	7 889	121.5	6 249	120	2 885	104	1 203	132
4th quarter	7 600	115.9	6 075	115	2 974	104	1 184	129
1978 1st quarter	7 935	120.2	6 259	116	2 966	102	1 275	136
2nd quarter	8 076	121.6	6 322	117	3 090	107	1 195	125
3rd quarter	8 652	127.8	6 759	123	3 142	106	1 361	139
1978 September	2 876	126.9	2 269	123	1 068	108	418	127
October r	2 936	129.2	2 254	121	1 096	109	414	125
November p	2 913	126.7	2 236	119	1 053	103	440	135
June-Aug	8 487	126.0	6 608	121	3 108	106	1 326	137
Sept-Nov	8 726	127.6	6 759	121	3 217	106	1 272	129
Percentage change	+3	+1½	+2½	+½	+3½	+½	−4	−5½

[1] Excluding ships, North Sea production installations, aircraft and precious stones. [2] Excluding ships, North Sea production installations and aircraft. [3] Excluding precious stones.

Table 17 Imports: value and volume indices excluding the more erratic items

Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted

	Total [1]		Industrial materials: Total [2]		Other semi-manufactures [3]		Finished manufactures: Total [2]		Machinery and transport equipment [2]	
	Value £ million	Volume index 1975 = 100	Value £ million	Volume index 1975 = 100	Value £ million	Volume index 1975 = 100	Value £ million	Volume index 1975 = 100	Value £ million	Volume index 1975 = 100
Weights		931		304		158		250		174
1976	29 399	106.7	10 081	114	4 909	108	8 219	110	5 748	109
1977	33 818	107.6	11 644	114	5 666	109	10 471	124	7 449	126
1977 2nd quarter	8 443	107.1	2 856	111	1 375	104	2 534	121	1 794	123
3rd quarter	8 593	108.6	2 951	116	1 455	112	2 691	126	1 931	130
4th quarter	8 158	103.8	2 803	112	1 387	108	2 728	126	1 951	130
1978 1st quarter	9 029	115.7	3 062	126	1 564	122	2 972	135	2 120	136
2nd quarter	8 936	111.9	3 014	122	1 532	117	3 194	141	2 285	144
3rd quarter	9 559	119.9	3 199	129	1 693	127	3 347	148	2 352	148
1978 September	3 315	124.9	1 081	131	573	129	1 218	160	870	164
October r	3 090	116.9	1 086	131	563	124	1 143	153	780	152
November p	3 311	124.6	1 104	132	552	122	1 162	155	805	155
June-Aug	9 263	116.0	3 151	127	1 660	125	3 254	144	2 283	145
Sept-Nov	9 716	122.1	3 272	131	1 688	125	3 523	156	2 454	157
Percentage change	+5	+5½	+4	+3½	+1½	−	+8½	+8	+7½	+8½

[1] Excluding ships, North Sea production installations, aircraft and precious stones. [2] Excluding ships, North Sea production installations and aircraft. [3] Excluding precious stones.

cent up in value in the three months to November, with increased exports of oil products offsetting a fall in crude oil exports from a high base level.

IMPORTS

The comparisons for some of the component series are affected by the inclusion in the June import figures, on an overseas trade statistics basis, of a North Sea oil production installation valued at around £260 million. Only a small part of this value, however, is included in the figures on a balance of payments basis (see note 3).

By area (table 11)

In the three months ended November, the value of imports from the developed countries was 1½ per cent higher than in the previous three months; excluding North Sea installations, imports rose by 5 per cent. Deliveries from the EEC rose by 8 per cent. Imports from the rest of western Europe fell by 10 per cent: excluding North Sea installations, imports rose by 4 per cent. Imports from north America fell by 2½ per cent, while arrivals from the other developed countries rose by 3½ per cent. Imports from the developing countries were up by 6 per cent, with a fall of 3½ per cent in arrivals from the oil exporting countries, and an increase of 14 per cent in deliveries from the other developing countries. There was a rise of 3½ per cent in imports from the centrally planned economies.

By commodity (tables 12, 13, 14 and 17)

In the three months ended November, imports of food, beverages and tobacco fell 1 per cent in value but rose marginally in volume. Imports of fuels increased by 9 per cent in value and 12 per cent in volume – from slightly low base levels – with price falling by 3½ per cent. Arrivals of industrial materials in total rose by 6 per cent in value and 3 per cent in volume; excluding precious stones the increases were 4 per cent and 3½ per cent respectively. Within this group, deliveries of basic materials were 3½ per cent higher in value and 4½ per cent up in volume. Imports of chemicals rose by 9½ per cent and 11 per cent in value and volume, respectively, with increases in both October and November. The value of imports of other semi-manufactures rose by 6 per cent, entirely reflecting higher prices, with no change in volume; excluding precious stones value rose by 1½ per cent with volume unchanged. Deliveries of finished manufactures excluding the more erratic items increased by 8½ per cent in value and 8 per cent in volume. Within finished manufactures, imports of machinery rose by 8½ per cent in value and 11 per cent in volume. Although the recent industrial action involving Ford depressed imports of road vehicles in both October and November, deliveries were 5½ per cent higher in value in the latest three months, reflecting higher prices; volume fell marginally. Imports of other finished manufactures (mainly consumer goods) were 10 per cent higher in value terms, largely reflecting a 7 per cent volume increase.

Notes

1 The Ford dispute. Production and shipment – both export and import – of Ford goods have been affected in October and November by industrial action, which began at the end of September and ran until the strike ended on 24 November. In the overseas trade statistics, imports are recorded so that the statistics relate closely to goods shipped during the month. There was, therefore, a likely short-fall of all Ford's normal imports in October and of most of their normal imports in November. For exports, however, the position is rather different since documents used in compiling figures for a given month relate, on average, to goods shipped some two weeks earlier, with the delay naturally varying about this average. The effect of the industrial action in the October export figures is thought to be small, but the full impact will be reflected in the November figures. Although estimates can only be approximate, the dispute had a favourable net effect on the visible balance in October, possibly of the order of £50 million, and an unfavourable effect of about the same size in November.

2 Revisions. Figures on a balance of payments basis have been revised since the article on the October figures. The export figures for the months of 1978 have been decreased by some £11 million a month because of a reduction in the allowance made for net under-recording, from 0.7 per cent to 0.3 per cent of total exports. The need for the reduction was revealed by the regular monitoring of the figures, and the adjustment will be continued at the new monthly rate. The export figure for the third quarter of 1978 has also been revised downwards in the light of more up-to-date information on the balance of payments adjustments.

There have also been changes to the estimates of net invisible earnings. The surplus in 1977 has been revised upwards by £117 million. For 1978, the surplus over the first three quarters is unchanged, with a reduction in the surplus in the first half of the year offset by an increase in the earlier projection for the third quarter. Details of these changes and an explanation of the reasons for them were published on 6 December (see *Trade and Industry*, 15 December, page 591) by the Central Statistical Office in the press notice on the balance of payments accounts for the third quarter of 1978.

3 Treatment of oil platforms in the May and June import figures. The import figures for May and June include oil platforms valued on an overseas trade statistics basis at around £240 million and £260 million, respectively. The two platforms had been moved to Norway in July last year for completion. As there was no effective change in ownership, the import figures on a balance of payments basis include only the value of additional foreign goods (amounting to about £25 million in May and £50 million in June) used in completing the platforms. This mirrors the treatment adopted for exports in July last year when the value of the platforms was included in the figures on an overseas trade statistics basis but excluded on a balance of payments basis.

During the completion process, expenditure was incurred for services (the value of contracts for finishing the platform other than the supply of major items of equipment) and the estimates of net invisible earnings in recent quarters incorporate appropriate debits.

4 Figures for 1977. The figures for 1977 on an overseas trade statistics basis included in the tables do not yet incorporate the latest information recently published by Customs and Excise in 'Overseas Trade Statistics of the United Kingdom 1977'. The differences, however, are comparatively small. At the level of total trade, a balance of payments adjustment has been incorporated to reflect the later 1977 figures.

5 Standard notes. Standard notes on definitions and coverage of the figures were published in *Trade and Industry*, 17 February.

Inquiries: Department of Trade, Economics and Statistics Division 5A, Room 234, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, tel. 01-215 5703.

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Wholesale trades in 1974

The two tables below give final summary results of the 1974 inquiry. Although the VAT trade code (VTC) to which each business was registered was known,[1] it was clear from the product groups dealt in that many businesses were wrongly classified. These businesses were therefore reclassified for inquiry purposes on the basis of the reported information.

All results classified by VTC in the Business Monitor SDO 26 to be published next year are based on these reclassified VTCs, except that during the course of the inquiry, it became necessary to combine the results for VTCs 8123 for clothing and 8124 for furs. Table 1 gives summary results based on these reclassified VTCs, while table 2 gives results by registered VTC and has been included for comparison with the first summary results which were also classified in this way.

In general, the revisions to the earlier results have produced final estimates which are higher. However, the final figures also include the results of the supplementary exercise conducted for businesses with VAT trade codes outside the field of wholesaling and dealing but thought, on the basis of earlier inquiries, to have a significant amount of activity in this field.

This exercise identified an estimated 53 such businesses for which wholesaling and dealing was the main activity. The wholesaling and dealing turnover of these businesses is estimated at £507 million. Results for these businesses have been included in both table 1 and table 2 according to the VTCs allocated to them on the basis of the reported information; they were excluded from the table of first summary results.

The inquiry was conducted on a sample basis. Details of the sampling scheme and estimation methods were summarised in Trade and Industry 28 October 1977 and will be described more fully in the Business Monitor.

Inquiries: Department of Trade, Economics and Statistics Division 6, Room 351, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, tel. 01-215 3220, or BSO tel. Newport (0633) 56111 ext. 2416.

[1] First summary results of the large-scale wholesaling and dealing inquiry conducted for 1974 were given in Trade and Industry on 28 October 1977. Final results of this inquiry are now available and will be published in Business Monitor SDO 26 by Her Majesty's Stationery Office early next year. The Business Monitor will contain analyses of the data collected in the inquiry – including turnover analysed by commodity groups, capital expenditure, stocks, purchases for resale, employment, wages and salaries and other costs and method of trading.

Notes:
1. All amounts are exclusive of VAT except in the case of capital expenditure on passenger vehicles where non-deductible VAT is included.
2. Number of businesses: the estimated number of VAT reporting units mainly engaged in wholesaling and dealing activities in 1974.
3. Total turnover: the turnover in respect of the total activities undertaken by the VAT units covered by the inquiry. Trade

New companies registered in Great Britain

Below are details of new companies registered in Great Britain during November 1978 showing nominal capital. The figures exclude unlimited companies and companies limited by guarantee.

Nominal capital	Total	Public companies	Private companies
Not exceeding £100	3 935	—	3 935
Over £100 but under £1 000	70	—	70
£1 000 but under £10 000	1 322	—	1 322
£10 000 but under £50 000	549	—	549
£50 000 but under £100 000	104	—	104
£100 000 but under £1 000 000	136	—	136
£1 000 000 and over	15	—	15
Total number	6 131	—	6 131
	£ thous	£ thous	£ thous
Total amount of nominal capital	60 558	—	60 558

Companies registered in Great Britain in 1977 and 1978

	1977		1978	
	Number	Nominal capital £ thous	Number	Nominal capital £ thous
January	3 225	30 825	4 555	31 447
February	4 330	34 505	4 316	38 325
March	5 843	49 266	6 024	52 299
April	5 499	41 860	5 031	47 396
May	4 097	27 086	5 939	59 998
June	4 169	61 951	5 023	45 806
July	4 172	34 238	5 264	57 870
August	4 242	42 331	5 087	50 191
September	4 527	51 261	5 484	92 414
October	4 404	37 741	5 482	41 488
November	5 007	33 987	6 131	60 558
December	5 005	30 739		
Total	54 520	474 790		

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Table 2 Summary by VAT trade classification
Estimates for all businesses: Great Britain

VAT trade group and code	Trade classification	Wholesaling and dealing activities: Businesses no.	Turnover £m	Total: Turnover £m	Purchases £m	Net capital expenditure[1] £m	Stocks at end of year £m	Persons engaged no.
	Total	80 104	51 171.4	49 820.3	43 101.9	581.8	4 426.9	1 087 495
23	Wholesale Distribution	55 009	32 632.1	31 669.6	27 319.8	256.0	3 247.0	747.600
8101	Fresh meat, fish, fruit and vegetables	7 270	3 681.7	3 629.8	3 058.9	28.6	100.4	81.533
8102	Alcoholic drink (including bottling)	1 293	1 547.0	1 517.3	1 146.2	17.8	508.0	34 157
8109	Other food and drink	4 173	7 310.4	6 916.8	6 398.8	37.0	423.9	129 693
8110	Petroleum products	750	2 672.5	2 655.0	2 083.3	41.1	170.4	39 153
8121	Chemists' sundries	797	430.5	419.6	352.5	2.9	50.5	17 468
8122	Clocks and watches	330	88.4	88.4	74.2	0.6	30.3	3 695
8123	Clothing	4 244	1 328.9	1 320.7	1 151.6	6.3	167.4	38 858
8124	Furs	185	109.8	109.7	70.9	0.1	10.3	772
8125	Textiles	3 337	1 238.9	1 227.1	1 017.3	9.7	207.1	33 688
8126	Footwear	450	138.4	137.0	115.4	1.4	19.8	5 064
8127	Electrical goods	2 464	1 057.2	1 050.1	865.8	10.4	169.5	33 056
8128	Radios, tv sets, tape recorders, tape recordings and gramophone records	713	463.4	435.0	332.9	3.8	89.2	10 543
8129	Jewellery	1 010	117.1	116.3	103.2	0.8	28.2	3 725
8131	Imitation jewellery	304	27.4	27.1	18.6	0.4	3.6	1 622
8132	Musical instruments	107	30.9	30.6	21.0	0.2	7.3	1 215
8133	Photographic goods	232	123.4	123.4	92.6	1.3	30.8	3 910
8134	Toys	814	167.8	165.0	123.3	2.6	33.0	7 493
8135	Travel and fancy goods (including shopping bags	1 044	118.1	116.8	95.4	1.1	24.6	5 272
8136	Furniture and floor coverings	1 379	288.9	286.6	235.6	3.3	49.2	10 345
8137	China, glassware, hardware and ironmongery	1 986	527.0	517.4	423.9	6.8	85.0	26 246
8138	Paper and board products, including reading material	2 419	2 042.5	1 800.3	1 619.2	11.1	124.8	41 769
8139	Leasing of office furniture, vending machines, juke boxes and gaming machines	702	49.5	49.0	19.7	8.0	6.0	4 877
8149	Other goods	19 036	9 072.2	8 930.5	7 899.3	60.7	907.7	213 446
25	Dealers	25 065	18 539.3	18 150.7	15 782.1	325.7	1 179.9	339.895
8311	Coal and oil merchants (not including bulk oil distributors or petrol filling stations)	5 934	1 151.6	1 061.9	949.7	8.0	33.9	30 482
8312	Builders' merchants	3 051	1 702.1	1 617.0	1 353.6	26.3	198.7	85 786
8313	Corn, seed and agricultural merchants; dealers in livestock	2 826	4 463.7	4 349.6	4 070.1	25.1	126.1	35 142
8321	Dealing in industrial materials	3 623	8 573.4	8 525.4	7 493.4	40.7	511.7	88 802
8322	Dealing in scrap and other waste materials	5 078	1 153.6	1 149.8	897.8	29.4	46.3	35 219
8323	Dealing in industrial and agricultural machinery	4 107	1 220.7	1 180.2	959.6	18.5	238.1	52 091
8324	Leasing industrial and office machinery	386	274.1	266.9	57.9	177.7	25.1	12 373

[1] Excludes purchases and sales of land and existing buildings

discounts, agents' commissions, VAT etc are excluded.
4. Wholesaling and dealing turnover: the turnover of the VAT units covered by the inquiry relating to their wholesaling and dealing activities.
5. Purchases, stocks, capital expenditure and persons engaged are all estimates which relate only to the wholesaling and dealing activities of the VAT units covered by the inquiry.
6. Purchases: the cost of goods purchased by the business for resale including amounts paid out for carriage and packing; the value of goods received from factory departments of the business for which separate accounts are kept; and duty paid direct to HM Customs and Excise less drawback.
7. End year stocks: stocks include the firm's own stocks of goods and materials on hand for sale or processing including duty where appropriate. Included are stocks held outside Great Britain by businesses operating in Great Britain but excluded are stocks of subsidiary companies mainly operating outside Great Britain.
8. Capital expenditure: all expenditure charged to the capital asset accounts including capital items bought on hire purchase and expenditure on the replacement of assets destroyed under circumstances (eg fire) which have given rise to an insurance claim. Expenditure on assets for use outside Great Britain is excluded as is expenditure on intangible assets such as goodwill.
9. Persons engaged: includes all part-time employees, directors or working proprietors and persons temporarily absent through sickness.
10. Year of return: all businesses were asked to make returns in respect of the calendar year 1974, but if this was not their year of account a return for a business year ending on any date from 6 April 1974 to 5 April 1975 was accepted.

Table 1 Summary by VAT trade classification allocated on the basis of reported information

Estimates for all businesses: Great Britain

VAT trade group and code	Trade classification	Wholesaling and dealing activities: Businesses no.	Turnover £m	Total: Turnover £m	Purchases £m	Net capital expenditure[1] £m	Stocks at end of year £m	Persons engaged no.
	Total	80 104	51 171.4	49 820.3	43 101.9	581.8	4 426.9	1 087 495
23	Wholesale distribution	53 077	31 836.8	30 905.5	26 652.2	284.4	3 067.7	734 098
8101	Fresh meat, fish, fruit and vegetables	8 409	4 693.2	4 616.7	3 967.5	33.5	202.0	97 958
8102	Alcoholic drink (including bottling)	1 384	1 570.4	1 541.3	1 169.0	17.8	508.5	34 528
8109	Other food and drink	3 594	6 981.9	6 613.3	6 145.1	35.0	330.7	112 788
8110	Petroleum products	1 102	2 987.1	2 963.8	2 367.6	42.1	172.5	42 482
8121	Chemists' sundries	1 519	671.8	655.4	527.0	4.7	85.2	27 186
8122	Clocks and watches	436	124.2	124.2	103.0	0.9	39.8	5 000
8123	Clothing							
8124	Furs	6 216	2 034.8	2 024.1	1 703.4	10.5	264.6	58 625
8125	Textiles	2 720	1 441.1	1 432.5	1 250.2	9.5	174.2	24 153
8126	Footwear	472	175.8	174.1	146.7	1.0	21.2	5 560
8127	Electrical goods	2 182	885.6	878.7	729.8	7.6	140.6	26 866
8128	Radios, tv sets, tape recorders, tape recordings and gramophone records	532	446.4	418.9	326.6	3.4	77.6	9 087
8129	Jewellery	1 037	112.2	110.8	97.9	0.8	26.3	3 816
8131	Imitation jewellery	228	24.3	24.0	16.1	0.3	3.2	1 480
8132	Musical instruments	142	38.6	38.3	27.6	0.3	10.7	1 414
8133	Photographic goods	384	144.1	144.0	110.0	1.4	34.2	4 634
8134	Toys	877	152.3	149.1	108.1	2.6	30.8	7 324
8135	Travel and fancy goods (including shopping bags)	1 536	117.2	115.1	93.9	0.8	20.4	5 761
8136	Furniture and floor coverings	1 391	297.0	294.5	243.6	3.1	48.0	10 001
8137	China, glassware, hardware and ironmongery	3 331	820.8	808.5	648.7	11.9	148.4	40 279
8138	Paper and board products, including reading material	3 587	2 225.4	1 981.9	1 760.1	12.7	142.8	50.025
8139	Leasing of office furniture, vending machines, juke boxes and gaming machines	602	83.9	83.4	13.8	48.0	4.7	3 663
8149	Other goods	11 396	5 808.7	5 712.8	5 096.5	36.6	581.5	161 468
25	Dealers	27 027	19 334.6	18 914.8	16 449.7	297.3	1 359.2	353 397
8311	Coal and oil merchants (not including bulk oil distributors or petrol filling stations)	5 716	1 167.3	1 079.8	966.6	7.5	31.9	28 982
8312	Builders' merchants	3 549	1 947.6	1 850.1	1 521.3	29.5	219.9	90 930
8313	Corn, seed and agricultural merchants; dealers in livestock	3 339	4 933.8	4 816.9	4 522.0	22.6	140.7	39 198
8321	Dealing in industrial materials	2 986	8 112.3	8 074.5	7 083.1	37.4	549.3	64 390
8322	Dealing in scrap and other waste materials	5 086	1 064.8	1 060.8	816.7	29.1	41.0	37 161
8323	Dealing in industrial and agricultural machinery	5 592	1 745.6	1 697.2	1 404.1	27.7	3 270.0	71 874
8324	Leasing industrial and office machinery	759	363.1	335.5	135.8	143.5	49.3	20 862

[1] Excludes purchases and sales of land and existing buildings.

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Investments by insurance companies and private sector funds

In the third quarter article (see *Trade and Industry* 15 December page 588), table 3 should have read as below:

Table 3 Investments of private sector pension funds

£ million

	Public sector securities[1]			Company securities[2]			Other investments[3]			Cash and short-term assets (net)[4]		Total net investment
	Purchases	Sales	Net investment	Purchases	Sales	Net investment	Purchases	Sales	Net investment	Closing balance	Net investment	
1974	1 047	947	100	695	625	70	204	86	118	809	449	737
1975	2 714	2 265	449	1 601	950	657	287	67	220	481	−328	993
1976	3 175	2 565	610	1 451	1 055	396	318	89	229	476	−4	1 232
1977	4 290	3 702	588	1 639	1 139	500	410	61	349	483	17	1 454
1977												
1st qtr	1 365	1 091	274	382	292	91	68	10	58	473	−3	419
2nd	720	700	20	399	232	168	64	14	50	522	64	301
3rd	1 150	1 020	129	430	278	153	183	11	172	461	−57	396
4th	1 055	890	165	427	338	89	94	24	70	483	14	338
1978												
1st qtr	743	615	128	333	248	84	71	11	60	595	109	381
2nd	769	512	257	393	269	124	89	26	63	522	−74	370
3rd	528	345	183	448	268	179	73	13	60	537	−1	421

[1] British government and local authority securities. [2] Including authorised unit trust units. Convertible debentures are excluded in 1977 only. [3] Mortgages and loans, property, overseas government securities and other financial assets. [4] Due to differences of coverage between successive periods net investment does not always equal difference between closing balances. Figures given in this table have been rounded and totals do not always exactly equal the sums of their components.

Index of industrial production for October

Figures for October suggest that after making broad allowances for losses of output attributable to industrial disputes in the motor vehicle industry, the underlying level of industrial output has changed little.

Before any adjustment (apart from regular seasonal factors), the provisional estimates show that the average level of both the all-industries' index and the index for manufacturing industries in the period August to October 1978 were ½ per cent below their levels in the preceding three months. The analysis by broad market sector suggests that, over the same period, the output of the consumer goods industries and investment goods industries was changed little, and the output of the intermediate goods industries fell by 1 per cent.

Data for the third quarter of 1978 have been revised by about ½ point in the light of later information, principally for the construction industry and for clothing and footwear.

The all-industries' index in the latest three months was about 4 per cent above its level in the same period a year ago; a similar comparison for manufacturing industries shows a rise of about 2 per cent.

The use for some industries of series which measure deliveries rather than production can result in the index numbers overstating or understating the level of output. The table 'Implied level of output' gives a broad assessment of the aggregate measures adjusted for this effect – these series are only available quarterly.

Implied level of output

Seasonally adjusted Average 1975 = 100

		Output of all industries	Output of all industries other than extraction of petroleum and natural gas	Output of all industries other than construction	Output of all manufacturing industries
Weights (1975)		1000	999.7	810	697
1973		110.1	109.9	108.3	109.2
1974		105.7	105.7	105.7	107.3
1975		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1976		102.5	101.2	103.4	102.2
1977		106.5	102.5	108.4	103.9
1974	1st qtr	102.0	102.0	100.2	103.6
	2nd	108.7	108.7	108.9	110.5
	3rd	108.2	108.2	109.0	110.0
	4th	103.9	103.9	104.7	105.3
1975	1st qtr	102.8	103.0	103.4	104.2
	2nd	99.5	99.5	99.2	99.1
	3rd	98.2	98.2	97.8	97.8
	4th	99.5	99.2	99.5	98.9
1976	1st qtr	100.8	100.3	100.9	100.2
	2nd	101.9	100.8	102.8	101.8
	3rd	102.0	100.6	103.2	102.3
	4th	105.4	103.1	106.5	104.5
1977	1st qtr	106.4	103.1	108.7	105.1
	2nd	106.3	102.2	108.4	103.5
	3rd	106.7	102.6	108.5	103.8
	4th	106.6	102.3	107.9	103.1
1978	1st qtr	107.4	102.5	108.9	102.8
	2nd	112.0	106.3	113.1	106.3
	3rd	111.5	105.6	112.8	105.8

Index of industrial production: summary

Average 1975 = 100

		Total all industries	All industries other than construction	Mining and quarrying	Total manufacturing industries	Manufacturing industries: Food, drink and tobacco	Chemicals, coal and petroleum products	Metal manufacture	Engineering and allied industries	Textiles, leather and clothing	Other manufacturing	Construction	Gas, electricity and water
Order		II-XXI		II	III-XIX	III	IV-V	VI	VII-XII	XIII-XV	XVI-XIX	XX	XXI
Weights		1 000	810	41	697	77	66	47	298	67	142	182	80
1973		109.5	107.6	110.2	108.4	103.2	107.7	125.1	103.5	111.3	114.7	118.2	99.3
1974		105.1	105.0	90.0	106.5	102.5	110.6	114.6	104.6	103.6	109.5	105.8	99.2
1975		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1976		102.0	102.8	125.7	101.4	102.7	111.3	106.9	97.0	100.9	103.9	98.5	102.9
1977		105.8	107.5	167.6	102.9	103.9	114.4	102.0	99.1	101.6	105.6	98.0	107.0
1977	1st qtr	105.5	107.6	174.1	103.9	105.2	115.9	102.7	99.3	104.0	107.5	96.1	106.5
	2nd	105.6	107.5	191.1	102.5	103.6	114.4	102.4	99.2	100.8	104.1	96.6	108.9
	3rd	106.2	107.9	190.6	103.1	102.6	114.0	107.7	99.6	101.3	105.0	98.5	107.6
	4th	105.8	106.9	194.7	102.0	104.1	113.4	95.2	98.4	100.2	106.0	100.7	105.2
1978	1st qtr	107.1	108.5	208.8	102.5	106.7	111.6	95.5	100.5	97.9	104.5	101.5	108.3
	2nd	111.2	112.1	230.9	105.1	107.6	116.4	108.2	100.5	101.6	108.9	106.8	112.4
	3rd	111.0	112.2	237.0	105.2	104.8	117.8	102.2	101.6	102.9	109.1	105.9	109.5
1977	Nov	105.5	106.5	191	101.5	105	114	88	98	99	107		107
	Dec	106.3	107.6	198	102.7	105	114	99	99	101	105		104
1978	Jan	106.8	108.2	205	102.3	109	111	91	101	97	104		108
	Feb	107.4	108.9	215	102.2	106	110	95	100	98	105		111
	Mar	107.1	108.5	207	102.9	106	113	100	101	98	105		106
	Apr	111.5	112.5	223	105.7	105	116	107	101	106	111		116
	May	110.2	110.9	234	103.8	107	115	106	100	99	106		111
	Jun	111.8	112.8	236	105.9	111	118	112	100	100	110		110
	Jul	111.3	112.6	237	105.3	104	119	113	101	104	107		111
	Aug	111.4	112.7	238	105.6	105	118	93	103	104	111		109
	Sep	110.4	111.5	236	104.5	106	116	101	100	101	110		108
	Oct p	109.3	110.7	245	103.3	108	118	101	98	99	108		106
Percentage change latest three months on:													
1. previous three months		−0.7	−0.4	1.7	−0.5	−1.0	−0.1	−10.8	−0.1	0.6	2.0		−2.9
2. a year earlier		4.0	3.7	23.3	1.8	3.9	3.5	−5.0	1.2	0.8	3.8		0.5

p Provisional.

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Index of industrial production: detailed analysis

Average 1975 = 100

	Mining and quarrying		Food, drink and tobacco		Chemicals, coal and petroleum products		Metal manufacture		Engineering and allied industries				
									Engineering				
	Coal mining	Other mining and quarrying	Food	Drink and tobacco	Coal and petroleum products	Chemicals and allied industries	Ferrous	Non-ferrous	Total engineering	Mechanical engineering	Instrument engineering	Electrical engineering	Shipbuilding and marine engineering
MLH	101	102-109	211-229	231-240	261-263	271-279	311-313	321-323	331-369	331-349	351-354	361-369	370
Weights	34	7	54	23	9	57	35	12	170	92	12	66	14
1973	103.3	142.5	106.0	96.3	120.6	105.8	127.8	116.9	98.4	97.2	92.4	101.3	95.4
1974	85.5	110.8	104.0	99.1	115.9	109.8	114.8	113.8	102.3	101.3	98.7	104.5	98.9
1975	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1976	92.8	277.9	103.2	101.6	105.7	112.2	106.9	106.9	96.5	95.1	96.6	98.5	96.5
1977	90.1	638.3	105.0	101.2	102.7	116.2	99.8	108.6	97.3	93.2	98.7	102.7	93.2
1977													
1st qtr	91.5	555.7	106.5	102.2	105.4	117.4	99.2	113.0	98.3	95.9	96.3	102.0	90.9
2nd	91.1	653.5	105.1	100.2	102.7	116.2	100.4	108.3	96.4	92.6	99.3	101.3	100.5
3rd	89.9	656.0	104.5	97.9	102.2	115.8	107.9	107.1	97.6	93.1	99.7	103.4	96.7
4th	88.0	687.8	103.9	104.6	100.4	115.3	91.6	106.2	96.8	91.3	99.4	104.1	84.9
1978													
1st qtr	90.4	755.7	106.0	108.4	98.7	113.5	92.2	105.2	98.6	91.9	100.5	107.6	93.9
2nd	89.1	886.7	106.7	109.7	98.3	119.2	108.1	108.7	100.0	92.9	105.8	108.8	93.4
3rd	90.0	916.2	105.4	103.3	105.3	119.6	99.7	109.6	101.8	95.0	106.7	110.5	90.1
1977													
Nov	87	668	105	105	98	116	83	105	97	91	99	104	90
Dec	88	704	105	105	104	116	96	107	97	92	100	104	82
1978													
Jan	89	740	109	107	97	113	87	103	98	92	99	107	94
Feb	91	787	104	111	95	113	92	105	99	92	101	108	95
Mar	91	740	105	108	104	115	97	108	99	92	101	109	93
Apr	91	835	103	111	98	119	104	116	100	93	105	108	88
May	87	909	107	106	99	117	106	104	100	93	106	109	93
Jun	89	916	110	113	98	121	114	106	100	93	106	109	99
Jul	91	915	105	101	107	121	113	113	101	94	106	110	91
Aug	90	925	105	103	106	119	86	111	102	95	107	110	93
Sep	90	909	106	105	103	118	99	105	103	96	108	111	86
Oct p	88	970	106	111	105	120	101	102	103	96	109	112	82
Percentage change latest three months on:													
1. previous three months	0.3	2.3	−1.4	0.0	3.2	−0.5	−13.9	−1.4	2.1	2.7	1.5	1.5	−7.7
2. a year earlier	0.0	37.5	2.5	7.2	4.3	3.4	−6.5	−0.6	5.4	3.6	8.2	7.2	−6.6

	Engineering and allied industries (continued)				Textiles, leather and clothing			Other manufacturing					
	Total vehicles	Motor vehicles	Other vehicles	Metal goods not elsewhere specified	Textiles	Leather, leather goods and fur	Clothing and footwear	Total bricks, pottery, glass, etc	Bricks, cement, etc	Pottery and glass	Timber, furniture, etc	Paper, printing and publishing	Other manufacturing industries
Weights	68	43	25	46	40	3	24	28	17	11	25	58	31
1973	113.3	118.8	103.5	110.3	117.1	107.1	102.1	113.7	120.7	103.5	118.9	115.7	110.2
1974	108.9	110.8	105.6	108.7	105.9	98.7	100.2	107.2	109.1	104.4	101.9	115.5	106.8
1975	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1976	97.2	100.2	91.9	98.8	103.0	102.3	97.1	101.0	99.1	103.8	103.9	102.5	109.0
1977	101.6	107.2	91.5	104.3	100.9	97.1	103.2	99.8	93.8	108.5	97.5	106.9	115.4
1977													
1st qtr	100.3	106.9	88.8	104.2	105.4	102.4	101.8	100.0	93.7	109.3	99.6	108.3	119.1
2nd	103.1	109.0	92.7	103.0	99.9	95.9	103.0	99.5	93.0	108.8	93.9	106.7	111.7
3rd	101.2	106.1	92.7	105.7	100.5	95.2	103.4	100.4	93.5	110.6	97.4	105.8	114.3
4th	101.5	107.0	91.8	104.1	98.0	94.8	104.7	99.3	95.2	105.2	99.2	106.6	116.7
1978													
1st qtr	105.2	113.3	90.8	102.6	97.1	90.8	100.0	96.2	89.2	106.3	96.6	106.1	115.6
2nd	102.2	107.9	92.2	102.0	99.8	103.0	104.5	103.2	95.2	114.7	103.6	108.7	119.0
3rd	102.2	107.7	92.6	103.1	100.9	96.9	107.0	100.3	94.3	109.0	104.2	109.2	121.0
1977													
Nov	99	104	92	104	98	95	103	100	94	109	101	107	117
Dec	105	112	92	105	98	95	106	99	98	100	94	107	117
1978													
Jan	107	117	91	103	98	91	98	96	90	105	94	105	120
Feb	104	112	91	102	98	91	100	97	89	109	98	106	114
Mar	104	111	91	103	96	91	102	96	89	105	99	107	113
Apr	104	110	92	106	104	103	109	105	97	118	106	108	123
May	104	110	92	98	98	103	101	102	94	115	100	107	114
Jun	99	104	92	102	98	103	104	102	95	112	105	111	120
Jul	102	108	93	103	100	97	111	96	92	102	103	106	120
Aug	106	114	92	106	103	97	106	102	94	113	102	111	124
Sep	98	101	93	101	100	97	105	102	96	112	108	110	119
Oct p	87	85	92	98	98	97	101	101	96	108	105	108	119
Percentage change latest three months on:													
1. previous three months	−4.5	−6.8	0.1	0.5	2.2	−3.9	−1.4	1.7	1.9	1.3	2.6	1.7	2.3
2. a year earlier	−4.5	−6.7	0.0	−2.8	1.2	2.0	−0.1	1.4	2.2	0.5	6.2	3.3	4.8

Patents recorded 'licences of right'

Under section 46 of the Patents Act 1977 the register was noted 'licences of right' in respect of the following patents on the date specified:

1 December 1978

1089463 Exxon Research and Engineering Co
Improvements in or relating to grease compositions
1115317 Exxon Research and Engineering Co
Process for preparing linear alpha olefins
1168009 Exxon Research and Engineering Co
Method for dihydroisophorone purification
1171754 Exxon Research and Engineering Co
Utilization of escaping fuel vapour in internal combustion engines
1201060 Exxon Research and Engineering Co
A system and method for producing polypropylene
1207513 Exxon Research and Engineering Co
Catalyst and method for isomerizing polymethylbenzenes
1207514 Exxon Research and Engineering Co
Method for isomerizing polymethylbenzenes
1507006 Nissan Motor Co Ltd
Oxygen sensor with porous solid electrolyte layer
1510405 Nissan Motor Co Ltd
Closed-loop mixture control system for an internal combustion engine with exhaust gas recirculation
1285718 Rubery Owen and Co Ltd
Improvements relating to hydraulic power transmission systems
1333793 Westinghouse Brake and Signal Co Ltd
Liquid-level sensing arrangement
1371788 Bendix Westinghouse Ltd
A fluid-control valve
1393546 Fiat Materiel Agricole SA
Improvements in or relating to a reaping or mowing machine
1404789 Barry SA
Improvements in or relating to an anti-skid device for wheeled vehicles
1434266 Maschinenfabrik Wifag
Improvements in or relating to apparatuses for controlling the tension of moving webs
1467307 Nippon Kokan Pipe Fitting Manufacturing Co Ltd
Tube fitting
1481028 Union-Mittelland-Gummi-Gesellschaft mbH trading as Deutsche Schlauchbootfabrik Hans Scheibert
Improvements in or relating to inflatable boats
1491464 OH Steel Founders and Engineers Ltd
An improvement in or relating to connecting means for linking adjacent buckets of a chain of excavator buckets

Any person who claims that the proprietor of the patent is, and was at the time of entry, precluded by a contract in which the claimant is interested from granting licences under the patent may, within three months after the making of the relevant entry, apply to the Comptroller on patents form 31/77 for cancellation of the entry.

I. J. G. Davis, Comptroller

Monthly Digest of Statistics

A compendium, compiled by the Central Statistical Office, of basic information across a wide range of 19 different subjects including population, employment and price statistics, social services, production and output, energy, construction, transport, catering, home and overseas finance, and the weather. It contains mostly runs of monthly and quarterly estimates for at least two years and annual figures for several more.

Price £1.95. ISSN 0308-6666. Annual subscription including supplement of definitions and postage £28. 26. From HMSO, PO Box 569, London SE1 9NH.

Combined engineering sectors: sales and orders up to September

SIC orders VII, VIII and IX

After the inclusion of provisional estimates for September and revisions to data for earlier months, the trend estimates and seasonally adjusted index numbers of engineering sales and orders present a generally more optimistic picture than they have done in the recent past. While the export market holds some promise a definite upward trend in the activity of the home market may now be perceived reflecting the increased level of investment in plant and machinery in the UK during the past year.

The trend in total sales rose by 1½ per cent between June and September, continuing the upward movement which began in November 1977 following a long passive period. The trend in new orders increased strongly between June and September; this rise of about 6 per cent was largely due to a sharp recovery in new orders from abroad. The increased sales and new orders had little effect on the length of the overall order book which has shown little movement over the past two years.

The home sales trend index is now showing a marked recovery from the low point reached in the last quarter of 1977. New orders, which have shown a tendency to rise since the beginning of 1976, continued to do so during the last few months, the trend rising by 3 per cent between June and September – a similar rate to sales. Orders on hand were, therefore, unchanged over this period, remaining at a relatively low level.

In contrast to the home market, the trend in export sales fell marginally between June and September. This setback may prove to be short-lived since an increase of 13½ per cent in the trend of new export orders occurred over the same period leading to an increased level of orders on hand. However, the sharp increase in the trend of new orders rests largely on the very high seasonally adjusted figure for September and may prove to be somewhat over optimistic.

The revised figures published in this table are based on the Monthy Engineering Inquiry relating to September 1978. The response rate of 82 per cent to the inquiry for September 1978, is judged sufficient to justify publication of provisional indices for this month. Taking into account late returns now received for June, July and August 1978, response rates for these months were 92, 91 and 89 per cent respectively.

An expanded commentary, together with additional tables, is given in Business Monitor PM 33-36, Engineering (volume indices of sales and orders), obtainable from HMSO, PO Box 569, London SE1 9NH, post free for a subscription of £4.32 per annum. Separate commentaries and volume indices are given for sales, orders-on-hand and new orders

Notes to table

[1] This ratio shows the number of months work in the order book in the base year at the then average rate of sales. [2] For orders-on-hand the percentage changes compare the level at the end of the latest period shown with the corresponding level for the earlier period. The percentage changes have been based on the unrounded values and are given to the nearest half percentage point. p Provisional.

Volume index numbers for the combined engineering industries up to August

	Total			Home			Export		
	1970 average = 100	1970 average monthly sales = 100		1970 average = 100	1970 average monthly sales = 100		1970 average = 100	1970 average monthly sales = 100	
	Orders-on-hand (end of period)	New orders	Sales	Orders-on-hand (end of period)	New orders	Sales	Orders-on-hand (end of period)	New orders	Sales
Ratio: orders-on-hand/av. monthly sales in 1970 [1]	6.7			6.3			7.6		
Trend estimates									
1976 p									
July	87	102	105	80	93	100	105	128	120
August	88	105	105	79	94	99	107	135	120
September	88	107	105	78	95	99	110	139	121
October	88	108	106	78	96	100	112	141	122
November	89	109	106	77	97	100	114	139	123
December	89	109	107	77	98	100	116	137	123
1977 p									
January	89	108	107	77	98	100	118	135	124
February	89	108	107	77	98	100	119	133	124
March	89	107	107	76	98	100	120	132	125
April	89	106	106	76	97	99	120	131	126
May	89	106	106	76	96	98	121	131	128
June	89	105	106	75	96	98	121	130	130
July	89	105	106	75	96	97	121	129	131
August	89	105	106	75	96	97	120	128	131
September	89	105	105	75	97	96	120	126	129
October	89	106	105	76	98	96	120	126	127
November	89	106	104	76	100	97	120	125	125
December	89	107	105	76	101	97	120	125	124
1978 p									
January	90	108	106	77	101	99	119	124	125
February	90	108	107	77	102	100	119	124	126
March	90	107	108	77	102	101	119	122	127
April	89	106	108	77	101	101	118	120	128
May	89	106	109	77	101	101	117	119	127
June	89	107	109	77	102	102	116	121	127
July	89	109	109	77	103	102	116	125	127
August	89	111	110	77	103	103	115	130	126
September	89	114	110	77	105	104	116	137	126
Percentage change [2] June-Sept 1978	–	+6.0	+1.5	–	+3.0	+2.5	−0.5	+13.5	−1.0
Seasonally adjusted									
1970	99	100	100	99	100	100	99	101	100
1971	89	94	99	92	95	99	84	90	100
1972	96	104	100	99	107	103	89	96	92
1973	127	129	111	126	129	114	128	128	103
1974	127	115	115	120	110	113	141	128	119
1975	97	93	110	90	89	106	112	103	121
1976 p	89	101	105	77	92	99	117	124	121
1977 p	90	107	106	76	98	98	120	129	127
1976 p									
1st qtr	92	94	104	85	88	97	107	110	122
2nd	87	95	107	81	91	101	102	107	121
3rd	87	106	105	78	95	100	108	135	120
4th	89	108	105	77	95	99	117	144	122
1977 p									
1st qtr	89	108	107	76	100	101	119	131	124
2nd	89	105	106	75	95	98	121	133	129
3rd	89	106	106	75	97	97	120	130	131
4th	90	106	104	76	100	97	120	125	123
1978 p									
1st qtr	89	108	108	77	102	100	118	123	128
2nd	88	105	108	77	100	101	115	118	126
3rd	89	113	110	77	105	103	118	134	126
1977 p									
January	89	111	111	77	104	104	117	130	129
February	89	111	108	77	102	102	118	132	123
March	89	103	103	76	93	97	119	129	120
April	89	110	108	76	99	100	120	139	129
May	90	107	104	76	96	96	122	137	126
June	89	100	107	75	91	98	121	122	131
July	88	104	108	75	99	99	119	118	132
August	89	110	105	75	98	96	121	142	129
September	89	104	107	75	95	97	120	129	133
October	89	107	106	75	99	97	120	128	129
November	89	100	101	76	98	94	118	106	121
December	90	113	105	76	102	99	120	140	120
1978 p									
January p	89	102	105	77	100	97	118	107	125
February	91	119	107	78	106	100	121	153	126
March	89	102	112	77	99	104	118	108	133
April	89	102	106	77	99	100	117	112	123
May	90	114	110	77	105	103	118	138	129
June	88	99	108	77	97	101	115	104	127
July	89	109	106	77	106	100	114	117	124
August	88	109	110	77	100	102	115	134	131
September	89	120	113	77	108	109	118	152	123
April-June 1978 (av)	86	105	108	77	100	101	115	118	126
July-Sept 1978 (av.)	89	113	110	77	105	103	118	134	126
Percentage change [2]	+1.5	+7.0	+1.5	+0.5	+4.5	+2.0	+2.5	+13.5	–

for total, home and export markets, for mechanical, instrument and electrical engineering (SIC orders VII, VIII and IX respectively).

The same nine series are given for each of the 36 industries within engineering in a quarterly Business Monitor PQ 33-36, Engineering (volume indices of sales and orders), also obtainable from HMSO for a subscription of £1.56 per annum.

Inquiries: Department of Industry, Room 607, Dean Bradley House, 52 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AG, tel. 01-212 5770.

Registrations of British, community and foreign films

The following are details of films registered by the Department of Trade under the Films Acts 1960 to 1970, as amended by the European Communities Act 1972, during the week ended Friday, 15 December 1978.

BR/E indicates that the film is a British quota film, EC that the film is a quota film. The date which forms part of the registration number of each is the date on which quota life of the film expires.

Title of film	Registered no.	Playing time minutes	Date of registration	Registered in the name of	Maker's name
BRITISH					
Superman	BR/E 39857/17/12/83	143	13 December	Columbia-EMI-Warner Distributors Ltd	Dovemead Ltd
Movietone News 2584	BR/E 39608/17/12/83	8	15 December	British Movietonews Ltd	British Movietonews Ltd
COMMUNITY					
Emanuelle Meets The Wife Swoppers	EC 39856/17/12/83	88	13 December	Tigon Film Distributors Ltd	AB Filmproduktion GmbH, Kelsterbach
FOREIGN					
Magic	F 39854	107	11 December	Twentieth Century-Fox Film Co Ltd	Joseph E. Levine Presents Inc, New York
Hot Play-mates	F 39855	80	11 December	English Film Co Ltd	Toro Cinematografica, Rome
Halloween	F 39858	91	15 December	Miracle Films Ltd	Compass International Pictures, California

Studies in official statistics no. 31

Regional accounts

This booklet, prepared by the Central Statistical Office, describes the data sources and methods used in estimating gross domestic product, personal incomes and components of final expenditure for Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the eight economic planning regions of England. A Continental Shelf region is also distinguished; this includes the profits of the UK offshore oil and gas activity. Certain of the estimates are further subdivided within the South East region to distinguish the Greater London area.

The booklet provides an essential background for regional economists and others concerned with the interpretation of the published data in the regional accounts. The concepts adopted for the individual items within the accounts and the limitations of the data and methods used to produce the estimates are fully discussed.

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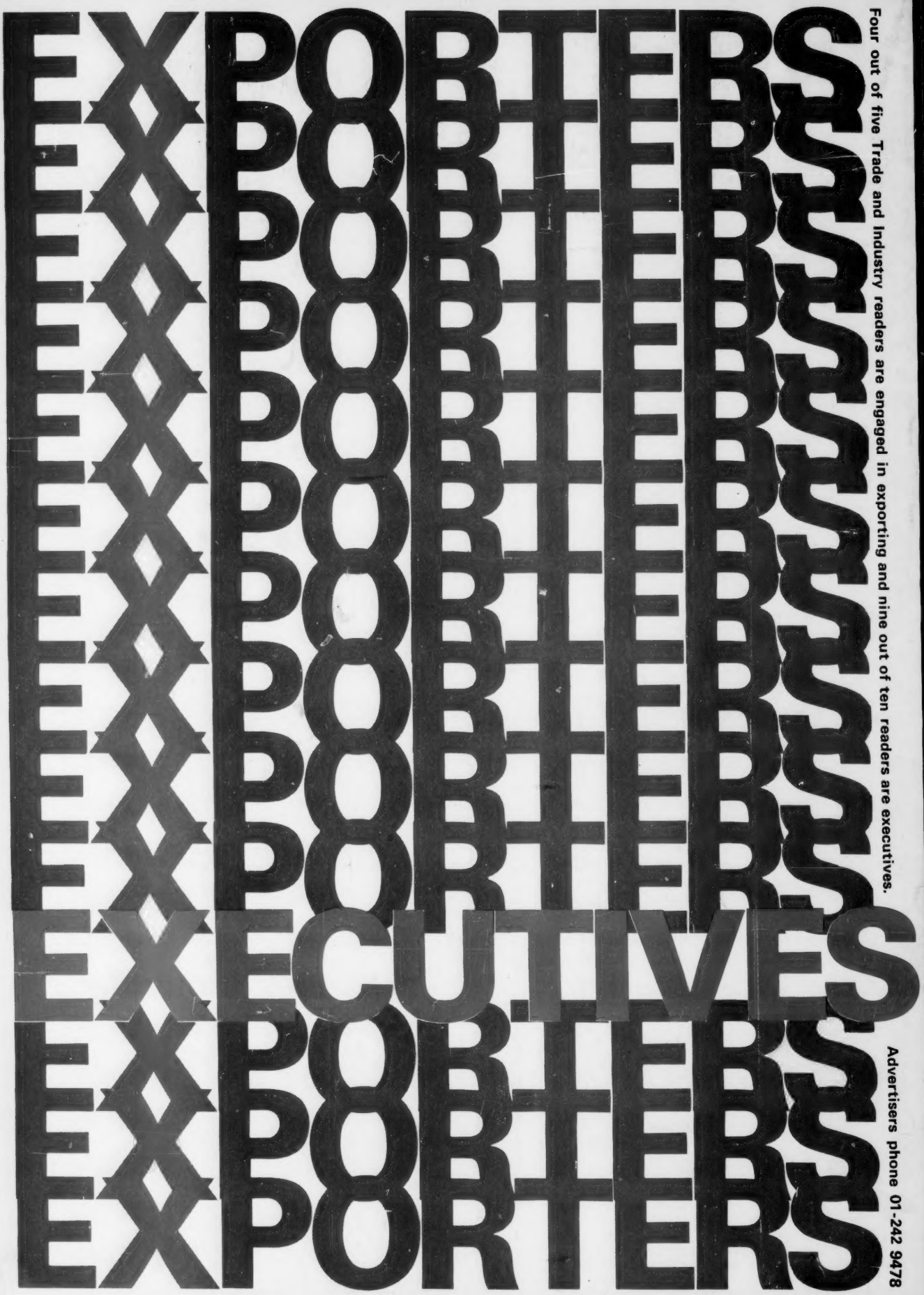

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